

# THE GATEWAY

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## Proposed tuition increase of \$18 for 11/12

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE  
Senior News Editor

Undergraduate tuition at the University of Alberta will be increasing by only 0.35 per cent for the 2011/12 school year, pending approval from the Board of Governors. The administration will also propose that students continue to pay the Common Student Space, Sustainability, and Security (CoSSS) fee.

Vice President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark presented the tuition fee proposal to Students' Council on September 14, and stated that 0.35 per cent equals an increase of \$18, raising base tuition from \$5,176.80 in 2010/11 to \$5,194.80 in 2011/12 for a full course load in most faculties, including Arts and Science.

In addition to the 0.35 per cent increase to base tuition, all differential fees will also increase by 0.35 per cent. International students pay a differential, and certain programs such as Medicine, Law, and Dentistry also pay additional fees.

Clark did state, however, that tuition as a percentage of the operating budget has decreased. In 2005/06, tuition and fees made up 26 per cent of the university's revenue, but in 2010/11 tuition and fees, including the CoSSS fee, will make up only 24.6 per cent.

Provost and Vice President (Academic) Carl Amrhein explained that because the CoSSS fee was reduced from the originally proposed \$550 per student per year to \$290, they will require the fee to be in place for longer.

"The fee was changed from the original proposal and it was understood that in the revenue gap that we had to fill, by lowering the fee in one year, it would require a longer period of time for the fee to be in place to make up that gap," he said. "We are going to propose that that fee will be in place for the [2011/12] year."

He added that the fee might be needed beyond 2011/12, saying "it wouldn't surprise me if the administration maintained that fee in the following year as well."

Clark said that the operating budget for 2010/11 was approved with a deficit of \$14.8 million.

Clark said this is because their original plan to make up the deficit by taking \$20 million from students, staff, and the institution fell short in part because of the CoSSS fee reduction. The \$20 million required from institutional cuts was mandatory, so that was maintained, and she said they are coming "very close" to saving \$20 million from furlough days and the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program (VRIP). She added that because of improving utility costs and efficiencies in the institution, the deficit could improve.

"We may actually improve over the \$14.8 million that we talked about for a budget deficit, but we don't know yet," she said. "So far it's looking good for being close to or better than target, but still nowhere near what I would call a safe operating place."

PLEASE SEE **TUITION** ♦ PAGE 5



AARON YEO

**BUDGET BLISS** Although still facing a budget deficit, the numbers have improved; the university reported a \$14.8 million deficit to this year's council.

## International students still paying differential fee

AARON YEO  
News Staff

Undergraduate international students at the University of Alberta currently pay more than three times the tuition paid by Canadian students, even though the Government of Alberta no longer mandates charging a differential fee, and the Students' Union is lobbying to change that.

The international student differential is a fee paid on top of base tuition rates, charged to students who do not hold Canadian citizenship or permanent residency status. The Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology used to require that postsecondary institutions charge at least a 100 per cent differential to international students, but stopped the practice in 2003 when the Postsecondary Learning Act was passed.

"Advanced Education said that [the differential] is no longer mandated," said Gerry Kendal, Vice Provost and University Registrar. "It's [now] at the discretion of the institution."

The boards of each postsecondary institution in Canada control the assessment of tuition and fees, as long as they comply with the provincial tuition fee regulations, which also don't state anything about requiring a differential.

Currently, international students must pay \$1,799.52 for each three-credit course they take,

while domestic students pay \$517.68 — a difference of \$1,281.84, or 247 per cent.

Each year, the university actively engages both the SU and the Graduate Students' Association in the discussion around tuition and fees, and the SU hopes to address the differential then.

**"I'd say the majority of those students aren't seeing the return services to help compensate for that. You can't justify increasing a student differential without providing the returns to that."**

ADEN MURPHY  
SU VICE PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL)

"I'd prefer to see the differential go down. It's a huge burden to those students," Students' Union Vice President (External) Aden Murphy said.

But Kendal says nothing about differential fees has been decided.

"The success would be dependent on the approach and the vigour with which the Students' Union presents their issues," said Kendal.

Kendal explained the impetus behind the extra fund and said that their distribution is decided by the deans of each faculty and much of it is put towards scholarships.

"A very good portion goes back to the faculties, pro-rated on the number of students they have," he said. "A large portion goes into funding international scholarships. These are scholarships specific to international students, in terms of helping them offset the cost of being here."

Some of the money goes to the U of A's international admissions unit as well, who manage the recruitment of students from overseas. They also run the International Student Centre in HUB, which provides support to international students with transition programs, job opportunities, and other services.

The U of A's differential is slightly higher than other universities in Alberta. Grant MacEwan University currently charges an extra 226 per cent.

The University of Calgary charges an extra 240 per cent, and the University of Lethbridge charges an extra 126 per cent. Mount Royal University and Athabasca University are lower, with a differential closer to 100 per cent.

"It's a really good deal, when one looks at the cost-benefit with other institutions," said Kendal.

PLEASE SEE **FEES** ♦ PAGE 5



### Horns in Africa

Gateway correspondent Devin Frobb reminisces about his experience at the World Cup in South Africa.

FEATURE, PAGE 12-14



### North Star

Canada's best musicians get their due as the Polaris Prize is handed out next week. We run down the contenders.

A&E, PAGE 18-19



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## colophon

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“

I was about to make a comment about inviting the public to look into our food service system at Lister Hall. My son went there for two years, so I'm not going to go there.

**CARL AMRHEIN**

Provost and Vice President (Academic)

—when answering a question on increasing university revenue

## COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Scott Fenwick

*Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6 p.m. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21, where free food will be provided for all attendees.**On September 14, Council furthered its creativity by serving salad, pita bread with hummus, and three different types of cookies. It was the second meeting in a row that Council hasn't served greasy pizza, perhaps indicating that they are growing sick and tired of it too. So if you're at all interested in non-greasy food and student politics, swing by, fill your belly, and get your democracy on.*

## THIS IS OUR PLAN

Provost and Vice President (Academic) Carl Amrhein and Vice President (Research) Lorne Babiuk presented the draft of the 2011-2015 Academic Plan. They explained that their focus would be on re-engaging learning and re-thinking the overall curriculum. The draft version was named "The

Vibrant Academy," and had points on undergraduate research. A few of the benchmarks for success included an interactive university calendar and a welcome centre.

The current plan is a draft; the final version will not be completed until January 2011.

## FOLLOWING THE MONEY

Shortly after Tuesday night's budget presentation, Students' Union Vice President (Operations and Finance) Zach Fentiman briefed Council on proposed changes to the SU's Access Fund, a needs-based bursary program.

The SU's Grant Allocation Committee proposes to move \$1,082,645 in accumulated surplus Access Fund money to the Student Involvement Endowment Fund (SIEF), which is used for the SU Awards program. The proposal also aims to move \$1,432,660 from the Access Fund reserves to the SIEF, leaving the Access Fund with a \$500,000 cushion to cope with market volatility.

The resulting changes will give the SIEF \$2,862,751 total in funds. Fentiman said that the investment in SIEF would then no longer require the SU to fund the awards program directly out its operating budget, and will increase the amount of money distributed by the program.

Some councillors raised questions about the fact that the Access Fund sur-

plus money was funded by a dedicated fee unit charged to students. Fentiman said that because the money is being distributed back to students in the form of bursaries, it still meets the requirements set forth when the fee was approved in a 1995 referendum. Council will vote on the proposal during their September 21 meeting.

## QUESTION PERIOD

President Dehod was asked about the resignation of Kory Mathewson, the SU's 2009/10 President until January 11, in light of the September 9 article published in *The Gateway* about the situation. Dehod said that he can say little about it because he's still bound by a confidentiality agreement regarding the situation, and that he is happy to discuss what happened with councillors in private.

Board of Governors Representative Craig Turner, who is also chair of the Council Administration Committee (CAC), fielded a question regarding this month's council by-election. Turner said that a vacancy of a science seat on council was missing in SU advertisements because of an administrative error.

Turner also noted that the SU bylaws restrict the Chief Returning Officer to extend the deadline for nominations for only up to two days if no one runs for that position. He added that CAC

and the CRO will work to ensure that it doesn't happen again.

Vice President (External) Aden Murphy was asked about his quotes in *The Gateway* and *Edmonton Journal* regarding the government's education tax credit program. Murphy said that he sees the tax credits as inefficient, prompting him to ask the government to redirect the money to grants and bursaries. He explained that he disagrees with the current approach because, since most students only use tax credits after graduation, students still have to pay for their education up-front.

Vice President (Student Life) Rory Tighe was asked about problems surrounding the Resident Halls Association. Tighe said that he and the RHA president aim to establish a new constitution, website, and election procedure, which should solve many of the SU's concerns.

## HOUSEKEEPING

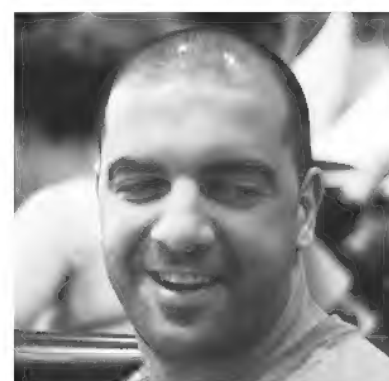
Council appointed Councillor Raphael Lepage Fortain to the Budget and Finance Committee, and Councillor Michael Ross as a permanent member to the CAC. Council also decided who among them should be awarded a \$1,000 Council Scholarship. After a secret ballot, Councillor Natalie Cox was declared the winner.

## STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by  
Matt Hirji and Sam Brooks

As you may be aware, tuition is increasing by \$18 next year.

## What would you buy with \$18?

**Stephanie D'Agostini**  
Science III**Zachary Osman**  
Engineering V**Hatem Askari**  
Arts I**Emily Williams**  
Education IV

Probably food. Subway. I love the Subway Melt, but they are pretty expensive. I would get the Subway Melt combo and then for dessert, I would get a Cram Dunk donut. I think that would add up to \$18.

I would buy lunch from Subway.

I would make posters so that I could hang them up around campus to protest the tuition increase. I think that would be awesome.

Honestly, I would just go out and buy some beer. Definitely beer. My favourite beer is Hoegaarden and it's pretty expensive. With \$18, I could afford it.

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# Dehod moving forward on fall reading week promise

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE  
Senior News Editor

*When Students' Union President Nick Dehod was running his campaign, one of his major election promises involved mental health support for students. Dehod felt that student mental health was something not discussed as much as needed on campus, and as a result he came forward with the idea of creating a fall reading week. Dehod's proposal is beginning to take shape and he's getting ready to consult with the university administration on the plan. Dehod sat down with The Gateway to give us a sneak peek on what to expect from his proposal.*

## How did the idea for a fall reading week come about?

Last year, the university was looking at creating the Helping Individuals at Risk program. We also identified that we didn't have enough counselors on campus. We also ended up in a situation where we had to review our Student Distress Centre, which is a service that [the Students' Union] offers.

I guess with all these things, they're more reactionary in that they provide support to students once they need that kind of support or assistance. And I kept asking myself last year, what can we do to proactively make sure that we're providing support to students for mental health? There are other universities in Canada that have fall reading weeks, or longer fall breaks, and that was something that, looking at it, I thought maybe we could start talking about at this university.

What we've been doing over the summer is just some research to see what fall breaks look like across the country, what sorts of benefits and costs are associated with them, and what sort of logistical issues we might run into here. So over the summer we've had some discussions with the

Registrar's Office to understand the different limits.

## What are some of the benefits associated with having a fall break?

When you look at a fall break, what other institutions have found is that it helps with things like retention, providing students an opportunity, especially in their first year, to catch up with their academics or work on their test-writing skills. It also helps just provide a mental break, or students who are in need of just going home to see their families have that chance before Christmas. That seems like it's especially important for first years [...] there's a piece of this that provides benefit to students.

But the other thing is that it also provides a lot of benefit towards professors and staff. The current winter reading week that we have is usually an opportunity for staff and professors to catch up on marking or just other work that is difficult to do when you have 30,000 students running around campus [...] When you look at a fall reading week, it also provides an opportunity for first-year professors to develop some of their teaching skills.

## What are some of the costs or challenges that would come with implementing a fall break?

Some of the costs associated with a fall break just come in either going later or starting earlier with the term, and that really depends on the institution. Some of the logistical challenges are that at other institutions that have a fall break, they have less instructional days and they have shorter exam periods, which make it easier to accommodate having a break at some point in the year.

At the U of A, we have a series of policies that we'd have to look at, one of which being that we have to have 63 instructional days, and the last day of exams must go until December 22. Right now in policy, it says that the first day of classes will be the Wednesday after Labour Day. So these are all things that we'd have to assess. But there [are] benefits and costs associated with changing those policies, and that will be part of the consultation process moving forward in trying to assess whether or not this is something that will be good for the entire community.

## Who are you meeting with to facilitate this process?

The Registrar's Office obviously deals with the calendar, so they've been helping us sort out dates and policies that would be pertinent to pursuing a fall reading week, and sort of giving us a sense of how much room there is to change the starting date, the end date, or the exam period. We've also had conversations with Dr. Chris Cheeseman, who's the Vice Provost and the Associate Vice President (Human Resources). So we've been talking with him to see what sort of benefits this would have from the staff perspective. We've had a few discussions with some of the senior administration team, but at this point, the formal consultation with some of these groups hasn't happened yet, just because some of the university committees haven't been sitting over the summer.

I think the objective here is that we want the university to take a sincere look at whether or not this is good for everybody on campus, and make a fair assessment. If it is something that the campus feels the benefits outweigh the costs, then I guess we move forward from there.

## How has the idea been received so far?

I think it's fair to say that the majority of people like the idea of having a break. People are very favourable to giving students a greater chance to succeed and for giving staff a break as well. The question that most people have though, is just the logistics of creating a fall reading week, and that's going to be an important factor in determining whether or not this works.

## From what you know now, what would the break look like?

That's something that we'd be up to discussing through this consultation process. It's just what works for the institution and where we have room to create more days off or gain the days that we lose. The three best options are taking that Remembrance Day weekend and extending that, so you'd create a full week there, a nine-day break. Probably the next option would be during Thanksgiving. Or at other institutions, they usually do the last week of October or the first week in November, but it really depends on how many days we can find to add to that break and what people feel is appropriate.

Looking at other institutions that have created fall reading weeks, it's a process that's taken several years to accomplish. For starters, the academic calendar is already made for next year, so by virtue of that, at this point, the soonest we could have a fall reading week would be fall 2012. That's presuming that we get this done in the next few weeks. But at several institutions, it's taken several years for that to happen.



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## NEWS BRIEFS

### BUSINESS STUDENTS BUMPED

The Business Students' Association (BSA) was removed from Clubs Fair last week, leaving the BSA confused about why they were asked not to come back.

Students' Union officials didn't specify any rules that the BSA broke. The BSA, who were selling student discount cards, did say that after Wednesday they were not allowed back at the Clubs Fair.

BSA President Lacey Suen said that when she was informed on Thursday morning that they would not be allowed to set up their booth, she was taken completely off-guard.

"I understand that they have policies, and I understand that they have to enforce it. Just, no warning, that's just hard for us to deal with next year. Now we don't know what's going on," Suen said.

Suen added that one of the BSA's warnings was for bringing alumni in, which is something she knows other clubs had done throughout the week.

"Why did we get picked as the one to get in trouble because we brought an alumni in? Because I know for a fact that some of my friends that just graduated, they went back to help out their clubs," she said.

"They want to see their membership grow, so I know people who did that. I'm not going to mention who, but I know that that happens. It's Clubs Fair. Everyone wants to get those first new students," she added.

Students' Union Vice President (Student Life) Rory Tighe said that the BSA wasn't picked on and they were given fair warning.

"I don't feel like they were singled out. There were other groups that had warnings and there were other groups that were talked to," Tighe said.

He added that to make it fair for all groups, the rules had to be enforced.

"There were pretty clear rules laid out beforehand and every group having a table had to sign off on those rules. There was a three-warning system — the BSA had more than three warnings. I don't

feel like they were treated differently. In fact, I think that if we hadn't enforced the rules then it would have been unfair on the other side in allowing them to do things that maybe other groups weren't allowed."

According to the operating policy for Clubs Fair, individuals working the tables must be University of Alberta students. Furthermore, solicitation isn't allowed; the policy states that "no monitor or patron is permitted to approach other patrons to Clubs Fair in order to promote their group, unless approached first."

Suen expressed a concern that the operating policy could hinder the BSA's efforts next year.

"They essentially said that by starting any conversation, we were soliciting. That's from my understanding that we have to stand there, and the student has to come and ask us about the card. The student has to start the conversation," said Suen. "If we can't solicit, we can't sell the cards because nobody knows about our deals."

—Simon Yackulic, Deputy News Editor

### BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME

On September 3, George Mason University claimed that they had narrowly broken the University of Alberta's dodgeball record of holding the largest dodgeball game ever. However, Vice President (Student Life) Rory Tighe disagreed, claiming that the U of A still held the title.

"There are rules that you have to follow to break the record, and we feel that GMU has not broken the record. You have to have two participants per one ball. We had 600 dodgeballs, 1,198 participants. They had 1,257 participants, 100-150 dodgeballs."

Tighe explained that the two players per dodgeball rule was passed on to the SU by the previous record holders at San Diego State University, and he felt confident that the Guinness World Record would remain with the U of A.

"I feel pretty confident in knowing that Guinness will not give them the record," Tighe said. "They either would recognize them or not, and so far they haven't recognized them."

"[GMU's was] not a record-breaking attempt. Thanks for coming out — I wish them better luck next year."

—Simon Yackulic, Deputy News Editor

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# U of A researchers find amino acid that can fight infections

HAYLEY DUNNING  
News Writer

A University of Alberta study has found that the ability to fight infection could be controlled in part by one amino acid, a crucial finding that could have major implications for malnourished individuals.

Richard Lamb, associate professor from the department of oncology at the Cross Cancer Institute, along with his postdoctoral fellow Virginie Mieulet, identified the amino acid arginine as a critical component of the immune response, drawing infection-fighting macrophage cells to the site of infection.

While attempting to study a biological pathway associated with normal cell growth, a different pathway linked with the body's response to bacteria came to the attention of Lamb and Mieulet. They found that removing amino acids from macrophages caused a breakdown in the signalling pathway that attracts more macrophages. Further experimentation with cell cultures led the team to induce fasting in mice to observe their amino acid response.

Feeding malnourished mice with the amino acids and testing their response to a substance that mimics bacterial infection narrowed down the result to arginine. While the addition of arginine didn't completely mimic the effect of feeding, Lamb says it had an important effect.

"This is pretty exciting, because it suggests there's a real role of arginine in modulating this response to bacteria. The only question then is [...] is it happening during fasting of malnourished human beings?"

The work is still in the very early stages, but Lamb thinks the implications are profound. For example, people in intensive care units, who are much more susceptible to infection, may benefit from arginine supplements. Conversely, too much arginine during infection could provoke an overreaction from the



SAM BROOKS

**SUPER SURPRISE** Lamb unexpectedly found arginine's infection-fighting powers.

body, causing inflammatory reactions like arthritis. Lamb suggests that withdrawal from eating while fighting infection could be a protective response by our body to prevent dangerous overreaction.

Lamb admits there's still a long way to go before any of these possible effects are understood in any detail, but is positive about the implications of a study that derived originally from a series of unexpected results.

"That's something you have to be very aware of in science; [you have to

be] very prepared to be wrong about things, and admit you're wrong about things, and focus on the things that are real. And these are often the controls in the experiments that you do, that turn out to be much more interesting than your fancy idea."

Lamb noted that, like the original study that included work from a number of labs across Europe, any further results will require collaboration between many experts before any real-world benefits can be applied.

# CoSSS fee will stay for next year at least

**TUITION ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Amrhein explained that total head count is up two per cent and the number of registrations is up 5.7 per cent compared to last year, which Amrhein said "likely reflects a bit of shopping, where students over-enroll with a plan to reduce before registration deadline."

"We are not hearing any noise that there is a registration crisis out there," he said. "First- and second-year courses are being maintained. There may be fewer sections in some of them. The question for us in the long run is the variety in third and fourth year, and this year, I gather that's going to be down a bit."

Amrhein added that there were staff reductions, including 51 involuntary layoffs and 161 staff members who left because of VRIP; they will be replaced in 12 to 18 months.

Students' Union President Nick Dehod expressed concerns over the tuition increase over the past two years.

"When you're looking at the CPI increase, that 0.35 per cent isn't a lot. But when you take into account what happened last year and the increases we saw, it still represents a six per cent increase over two years to the cost of education at this institution," he said.

Dehod added that the CoSSS fee is something that the SU would like to see removed, but he doesn't think it's likely to happen soon.

"The challenge with that's going to be the fact that the university is still facing a budget crunch, and at this point, based on the conversations we're having with the Minister of Advanced Education, it seems unlikely that we're going to see funding," Dehod said. "It's something we'll continue to keep on our radar and see what we can do, but until we see increased funding from the provincial government, it doesn't seem likely at this point that we're going to see that fee disappear in the next year or so."

# International differential goes to services

**FEES ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

"We've got terrific programs [that are] extremely well recognized, and our costs for international students, compared internationally, are very competitive," Kendal added.

Kendal also believes that a tuition that's too low might reduce the perceived value of the U of A.

"If we charge X and a competitor charges 3X," said Kendal, "maybe they'll say, 'maybe it's not a good enough program.' And there's an absolute reality to that."

Murphy doesn't agree with what's known as the "Chivas Regal Effect" — the idea that something that costs more must be better.

"I'd say the majority of those students aren't seeing the return services to help compensate for that. You can't justify increasing a student differential without providing the returns to that," Murphy said.

Murphy would like to see additional services, including things like increased prayer space for Muslim students.

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MATTHIRJI

# Housing scarce for prairie students

TANNARA YELLAND  
CUP Prairies & Northern Bureau Chief

SASKATOON (CUP) — Logan Barr made the three-hour drive from his hometown to Saskatoon a number of times before he finally found a place to live.

The second-year University of Saskatchewan student spent over a month looking for a place to live, and though he eventually found what he was looking for at an affordable price, he says it was a difficult search.

In most prairie college towns, the story is the same. Housing is so scarce that students are scrambling to find somewhere adequate. And with the low number of residence spaces available at many universities, most students have no choice but to venture into the world of real-estate rentals to find a place to live.

Vacancy rates in the prairies have been low for some time. Manitoba has the lowest vacancy rate of all the provinces, up from 0.8 per cent to one per cent between April 2009 and April 2010.

Brandon, Manitoba, and Regina share the dubious distinction of having among the lowest vacancy rates of Canada's urban centres. Brandon's vacancy rate as of April 2010 was 0.2 per cent, while Regina — home

to the second-largest university in Saskatchewan — had a 0.8 per cent vacancy rate.

Alberta is the exception, with vacancy rates sitting at 6.0 per cent. However, average rental prices in Alberta remain approximately \$150 higher than in Saskatchewan or Manitoba.

A major contributor to high rent at the University of Alberta is the municipal property tax imposed on postsecondary residences. Students' Union Vice President (External) Aden Murphy explained this past summer that this tax works out to \$200 per bed per year and is something that doesn't exist in other provinces. The SU is preparing to advocate that these taxes be lifted from residences, so that rents can be lowered.

"We're hoping to work on reducing or limiting that this year," said Murphy. "Once we have a plan, we'll be taking it to the different city council candidates during the municipal election [this October]. If we are getting nowhere with the city, then we'll probably take it to the province next, and ask them to remove residences from the properties that the city can tax."

The housing shortages and property taxes are both sorry news to the vast majority of postsecondary students in the three provinces. Both the University of Saskatchewan and the University of

Manitoba only have enough residence space for less than 10 per cent of their student populations.

The U of A is capable of housing slightly more than 10 per cent of its student population, but for the growing number of out-of-town and even out-of-country students, finding a place to live in a city as large as Edmonton can be a daunting task.

One solution to this problem is a program the U of A Indian Students' Association hit upon. New students can fill out a form on the INDSA website and the group will arrange temporary housing and even airport pickup for international students.

The U of S also has an initiative to help students who either choose not to live in residence or are unable to get a space on campus.

"The [U of S Students' Union] housing registry is a great resource," Leon Thompson, SU Vice President (Student Affairs), said. "People come to us to post their house, we put it online, and then renters contact them directly."

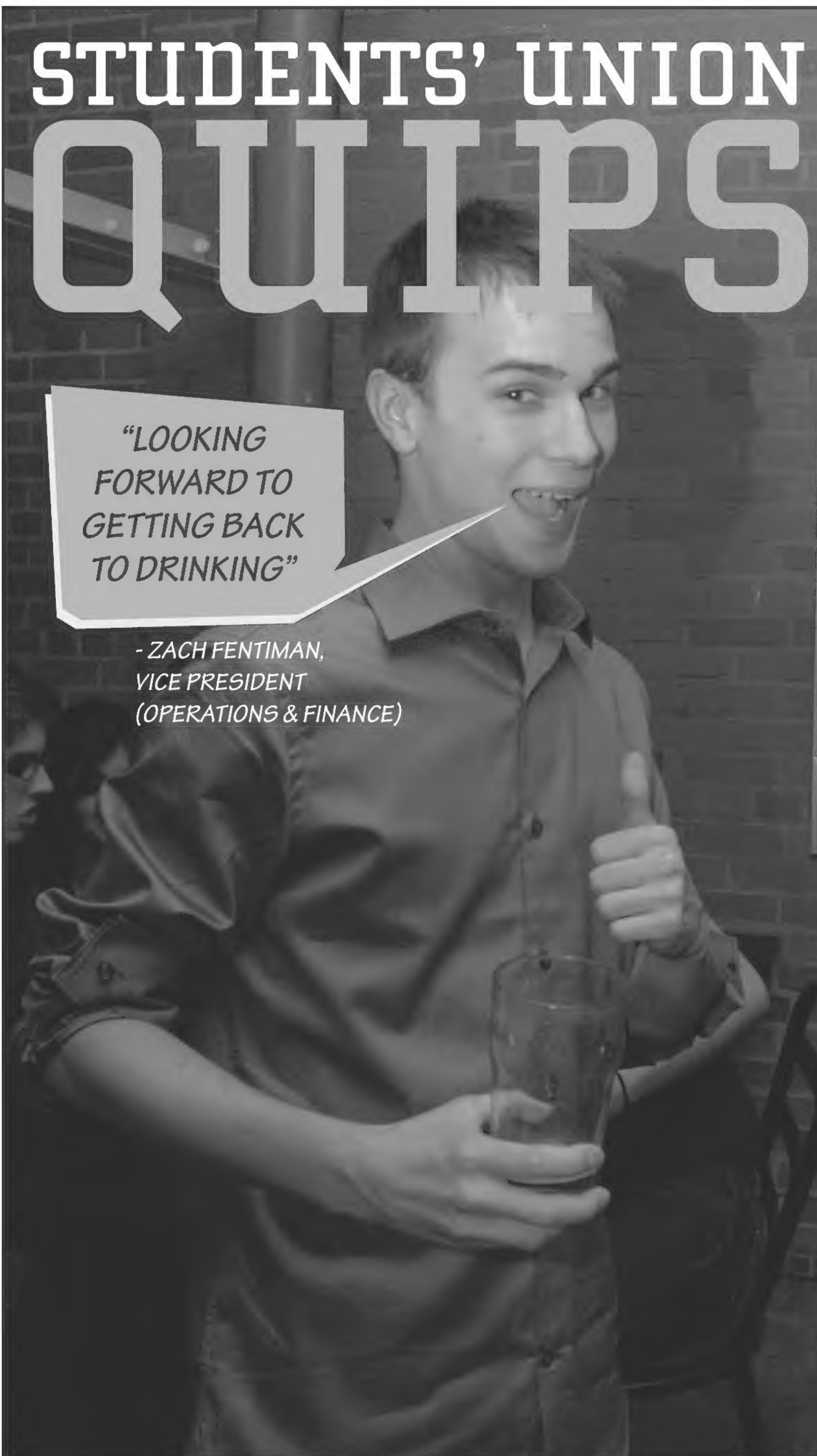
The housing registry's website has pictures, maps, and information about a number of rooms and prices for each rental property.

Even with these initiatives, prairie students face a difficult search for affordable accommodations near their campuses.

## STUDENTS' UNION QUIPS

"LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING BACK TO DRINKING"

- ZACH FENTIMAN,  
VICE PRESIDENT  
(OPERATIONS & FINANCE)



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**GATEWAY NEWS**

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# Feds extend student loan limit by \$2B

EMMA GODMERE  
CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP) — An increase in demand for student loans almost overwhelmed the federal system this fall, and both the federal department of Human Resources and Skills Development (HRSDC) and the Canadian Federation of Students argue that a long-term solution is needed.

In August, HRSDC Minister Diane Finley realized the government was in danger of breaching its pre-legislated lending limit of \$15 billion for student loans. In order to avoid hitting the ceiling and losing the legal authority to dispense loans to Canadian students this September, Finley used an order-in-council — an administrative decision approved by the Governor General — to extend the limit by \$2 billion to ensure eligible students received appropriate loans this fall.

According to government documents, some 50,000 students could have been affected and would have had to find other means of financing their education this September, had this not been approved.

"The economic downturn resulted in a 10 per cent increase in student loan demand, from 2008–09 to 2009–10, as more students decided to begin or continue postsecondary education," an HRSDC spokesperson stated in an email.

**"This has essentially sped up the inevitable with the loans-based financial assistance system; we're here four to five years before the system predicted us to be."**

DAVE MOLENHUIS  
CFS NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON

The department was still expecting to hit the \$15-billion limit by 2014–15, according to an annual report on the Canada Student Loans program tabled in the House of Commons in June.

Dave Molenhuis, national chairperson of the Canadian Federation of

Students, is concerned with the minister's decision to extend the national borrowing limit.

"This has essentially sped up the inevitable with the loans-based financial assistance system; we're here four to five years before the system predicted us to be," he said.

"We've got bad policies that exist out there, which are begetting more bad policies [...] It's unfortunate that the best solution to this issue that the government can come up with is essentially trying to sweep the problem under the rug."

Molenhuis emphasized that MPs will need to do more to prevent such a situation from occurring again.

"What this shows us is that there will have to be, sooner than we thought, actual legislative changes made to the Student Financial Assistance Act — and it will have to be made in Parliament if we are to continue to rely on a loans-based financial assistance system," he said.

In the order-in-council documents, HRSDC proposed that a longer-term solution, which could include legislation, would ultimately be required.



# OPINION

opinion@gatewayualberta.ca ♦ thursday, september 16, 2010

## Oil sands could be taxpayers' burden

THE PEMBINA INSTITUTE, A CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL think-tank, released a report this week that hammered the oil industry, as well as the provincial government, for not setting aside enough money to reclaim and restore land currently being used by oil sands developers.

The news comes as yet another black eye for one of the province's major industries, a group that has been slammed almost non-stop since a *National Geographic* article brought international attention to the blighted land of Alberta's north. At some point, the industry is going to have to clean up their act, both literally and figuratively.

But the Pembina report shows that's not a high priority for companies with stakes in the oil sands. While they've reclaimed 65 square kilometres already, another 791 square kilometres remains in tatters, either from being disturbed by mining or from housing massive lakes of waste known as tailing ponds. That's an area slightly larger than the city of Calgary covered entirely in mining facilities and garbage.

And while the provincial government requires companies to set aside a "damage deposit" of enough money to reclaim the land, the industry has fallen short to the tune of somewhere between \$10 billion and \$15 billion. That's \$4,300 to \$6,300 for every taxpayer in Alberta, or the equivalent of tuition for a student at the University of Alberta. And that's just to clean up the trash the oil industry leaves behind.

Oil companies are required to keep this money in savings in case they should happen to go bankrupt before being able to clean up the land they use drilling for oil. Without enough money in the bank, Alberta taxpayers will end up on the hook for tidying up after the companies currently polluting the oil sands if those corporations are unable or unwilling to do so.

In order to combat their negative image as a rapacious resource devourer, our provincial government is spending millions on public relations battles and meeting with foreign officials to convince them of our good intentions. Heading to Ottawa last week, Premier Ed Stelmach said he would tell Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, "how it is in Alberta."

And how is it here in Alberta, Steady Eddy? Based on the mounting evidence, not great.

Apparently, Albertans enjoy ignoring substantial environmental concerns in favour of making a quick buck. We like to scrape massive holes in the earth and deposit huge quantities of deadly toxins into lakes of poisonous waste.

At this point, it should come as no surprise that oil companies are getting a free pass from the Tories, provided they throw a dime to the government on the way through. We've even given up on getting our fair shake from these companies, dismissing any attempt to increase royalties on oil or gas.

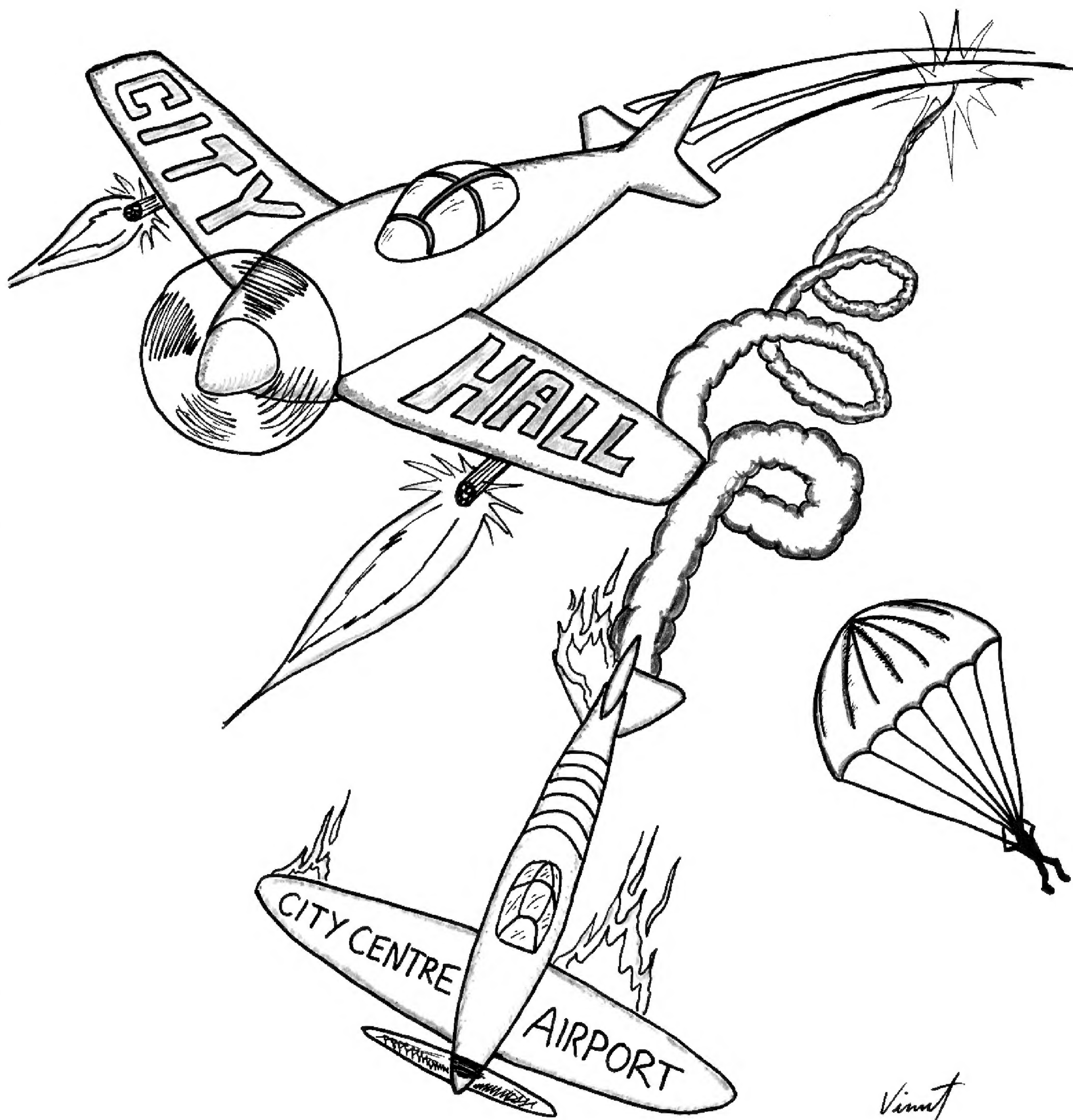
But we shouldn't take this status quo as some sort of pre-ordained direction, as though the oil and gas companies are all-powerful and can turn off the taps at will. These are companies doing business in our province, using the resources that the federal government says are ours, to fund their short-term, high-profit projects.

At a certain point, we have to look in the mirror and make some hard decisions. Our province's annual budget is almost entirely dependent on ever-expanding revenues the oil and gas industry bring us. Roads, schools, hospitals, and even student loans and bursaries are funded by royalties taken from companies hell-bent on removing as much oil from the ground as quickly as possible. When the money runs out — and sooner or later it will — "recession" won't begin to describe the state of our economy.

The time will come when we're going to have to get out of bed with these companies and realize what they're doing to our natural environment. When the numbers for the Athabasca oil sands are quoted — roughly 1.7 trillion barrels of heavy crude oil — they seem to border on the infinite and make it appear as though we have hit upon an endless supply of oil.

But that's not the case. The flow of oil will stop eventually, even if that day is 100 years down the road, and all we're going to be left with are massive holes in the ground.

JUSTIN BELL  
Managing Editor



ROSS VINCENT

## letters TO THE eds

### Gateway Orientation feature a flop

I'm in my fourth year, and have volunteered with Orientation three times. While I vaguely recall my own Orientation's programming, I can distinctly remember what it felt like. Monday morning, I went in scared, alone, and overwhelmed. By the end of Tuesday, I was confident that I could make it, thanks to Orientation. Three years later, I've put a lot of hours into Orientation. This year, I was a High School Orientation Leader. If I felt some of the programming was juvenile or poorly paced, I made sure to supplement it with my own experiences and knowledge. Overall, I had a great time.

This is why Matt Hirji's article about "infiltrating" Orientation made me feel like crap. All that care and effort I had put in — just to be lampooned in *The Gateway*. There was no constructive criticism for the Centre for Student Development (CSD) — just that everything sucked. A couple of points were applicable. We're not supposed to lead cheers first thing Monday morning. SIMS wasn't as successful as it could have been. But the 'Smart And Sexy' session? I loved it. It was informative, funny, and sex-positive without passing on judgment.

Judgment, however, is the theme of Hirji's article. While he accuses

some Orientation volunteers of being "condescending assholes", the language throughout the article is condescension. "Children," "kids," and "newbies" are terms Hirji uses to describe new students. He reserves "douchebag bros" for volunteers. He also offers no praise, highlights, or constructive feedback.

Orientation has problems. The article calls attention to some, and I'm glad that *The Gateway* is promoting open discussion. Maybe Orientation is too volunteer-centric, and needs to focus more on students. This is the onus of the CSD to change, based on community and volunteer feedback, their ideas, and the vision of the Students' Union. I don't envy their position or the logistical nightmare that is Orientation. Next year, I'll keep helping people who might be as scared as I was, instead of using my "fifth-year wits" to write an unhelpful article under the guise of satire to get a few giggles and piss off a few hundred people.

It's also worth noting that *The Gateway* has a win-win situation here — they are prominent sponsors of Orientation, but can still appeal to those who didn't enjoy Orientation by gutting it in print.

KIM FERGUSON  
Science IV

### Orientation a flop

My perspective on the orientation I received this year is that it was somewhat of a flop. Being a third year transfer student, what I was

looking for was a better understanding of campus layout, U of A procedures, how to get involved with specific clubs/associations, who to go to, and where to go. What I walked into was a classroom led by two awkward people about five years younger than I am, who gave the impression that all the "involved" stuff was "lame ideas that first years fall for." The orientation schedule that ran from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. could have been piled into four hours of solid, awesome information, and not wasted my time with a confusing concept of Mario and Luigi, and Alice in Wonderland.

The tour of campus gave no history or information on what the buildings are used for. I am all about school pride and getting excited for a new community of students — but the majority of orientation leaders seemed more excited about being leaders than actually transferring that energy onto us. I suggest a better brainstorm session before next year's Orientation.

HANNAH GRANT  
Arts III

### "Phoney" phone line cuts at U of A a flop

I would like to bring attention to an issue that many students may have missed over the summer. The issue I am referring to is the disappearance of phones due to budget cuts in many of the Faculty of Arts' department offices. Although this specific issue may be minor, I believe

it is representative of our university's flawed priorities regarding the way it handles budget cuts.

The U of A is not the biggest, nor the highest ranked, university in Canada. Therefore, it would seem logical that Dr. Samarasekera's pay would reflect those statistics. However, according to Maclean's Magazine, the University of Alberta's president is the highest-paid university president in Canada. The argument in the past has been that to be "the best," our school needs to have a fiscally competitive incentive to attract "the best" candidates for our presidency. However, even with "the best" president money can buy at the helm, our stock still fell almost 20 positions according to the most recent QS World University rankings. Not to say that Dr. Samarasekera has done a bad job, but if the president's salary was at a reasonable and accurate level, the university could avoid embarrassing and trivial cost-cutting measures such as this one (not to mention potentially off-setting the absurd CoSSS student-bailout fee).

More specifically, these "phoney cuts" put an added strain on the small, but important, Department of Scandinavian Studies. The University of Alberta Scandinavian program is the only program of its kind in Canada, and has specifically attracted students from as far away as Washington D.C. and Europe. The Faculty of Arts' decision to take easily accessible phone communication away is detrimental because it reduces the department's

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 10



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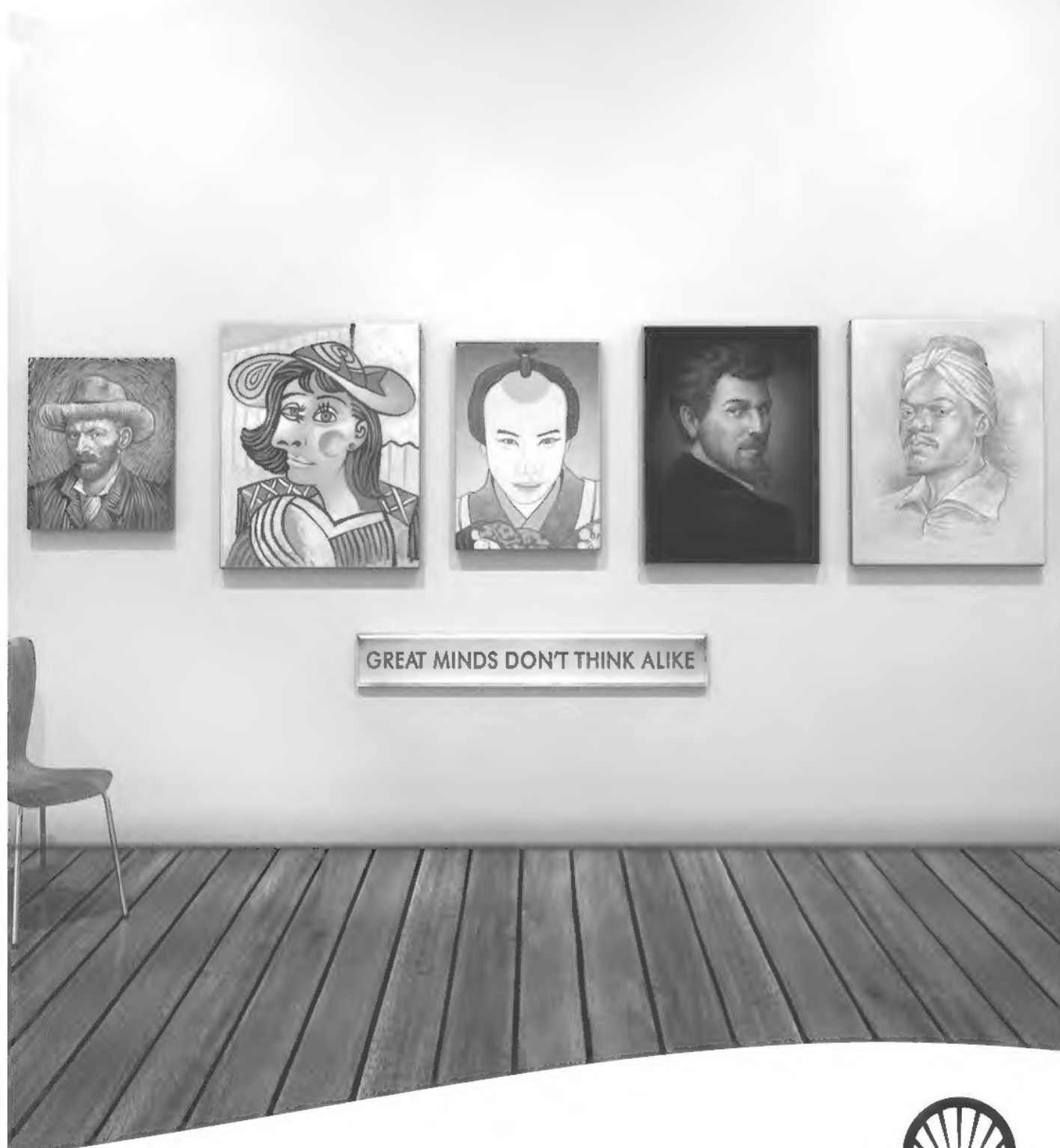


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# Book burning demonstrates ignorance

Those intent on desecrating Muslim holy text should instead educate themselves



BRENT  
KELLY

As many of you may know, burning things can be a very enjoyable activity, especially when under the influence of various substances. But generally speaking, it's not a great idea to burn the Qur'an.

The proposed building of the Park 51 community center and mosque in New York, often referred to now as the "Ground Zero Mosque," has stirred up a flurry of debate in the United States. Some are upset over the prospect of having a mosque built two blocks away from where the World Trade Centers once stood. Others argue that preventing the construction of the community center would infringe on the rights of those who desire to build it.

The controversy over the proposed center at Park 51 has, in some cases, degenerated into poorly considered acts of "protest." A Florida pastor, Terry Jones, proposed to burn piles of Qur'ans on the anniversary of 9/11, although he changed his mind after the American commander in Afghanistan, General David Petraeus, urged him to cancel the protest. President Obama also weighed in on the issue, denouncing the intended act as intolerant and potentially giving terrorist organizations recruitment material. When asked why he chose to call off the book

burning, Jones explained that he had accomplished his mission, which was "to expose that there is an element of Islam that is very dangerous and very radical." He may have exposed someone as dangerous and radical, but it may not have been who he was intending.

There are roughly 1.5 billion Muslims on the planet, or about 25 per cent of the entire population. That means that, on average, every fourth person on the planet will be pissed at you if you burn the Qur'an.

**Burning the holy book doesn't accomplish anything — at the end of the day, all you'll end up with is a pile of ashes and a lot of irate Muslims.**

Of course, some of them won't actually be angry, but instead confused or concerned, wondering why you're burning the book they believe to be the word of God. And with good reason. Burning the holy book doesn't accomplish anything — at the end of the day, all you'll end up with is a pile of ashes and a lot of irate Muslims.

Of course, some people just want to express their hatred of Islam, since they blame the religion as a whole for the events of September 11, 2001. But that too is extremely misguided, since the whole of Islam did not cause 9/11 — it was the actions of a small group of radical extremists. People

from all religions do both good and bad things, as do atheists and agnostics. The world is filled with violent extremists, and Islam gets its own share of the distribution, though after 9/11, Muslims have been unfairly maligned for having a larger portion of that share than other groups.

As an atheist, I'll be the first to say there are problems with all major religions, and Islam is certainly no exception. But burning the Qur'an is a frightening expression of misguided hatred. Instead of burning the Qur'an based on erroneous preconceptions about the religion, maybe people intent on destroying the Qur'an should read it instead.

The level of ignorance regarding Islam and Park 51 is staggering. Many of the most vocal critics of the religion would be hard-pressed to name even one of the Five Pillars of Islam. The fact that Christians, Jews, and Muslims worship what is essentially the same God is a concept that's sparsely understood. Contrary to what many opponents might believe, the stated objective of those who propose building Park 51 is "to actively promote engagement through a myriad of programs, by reinforcing similarities and addressing differences."

Burning the Qur'an, quite simply, doesn't accomplish anything — except making you look like an asshole. If you actually want to make a difference, you could start by building a community center dedicated to promoting understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims in the United States — they seem to be in desperate need of one.

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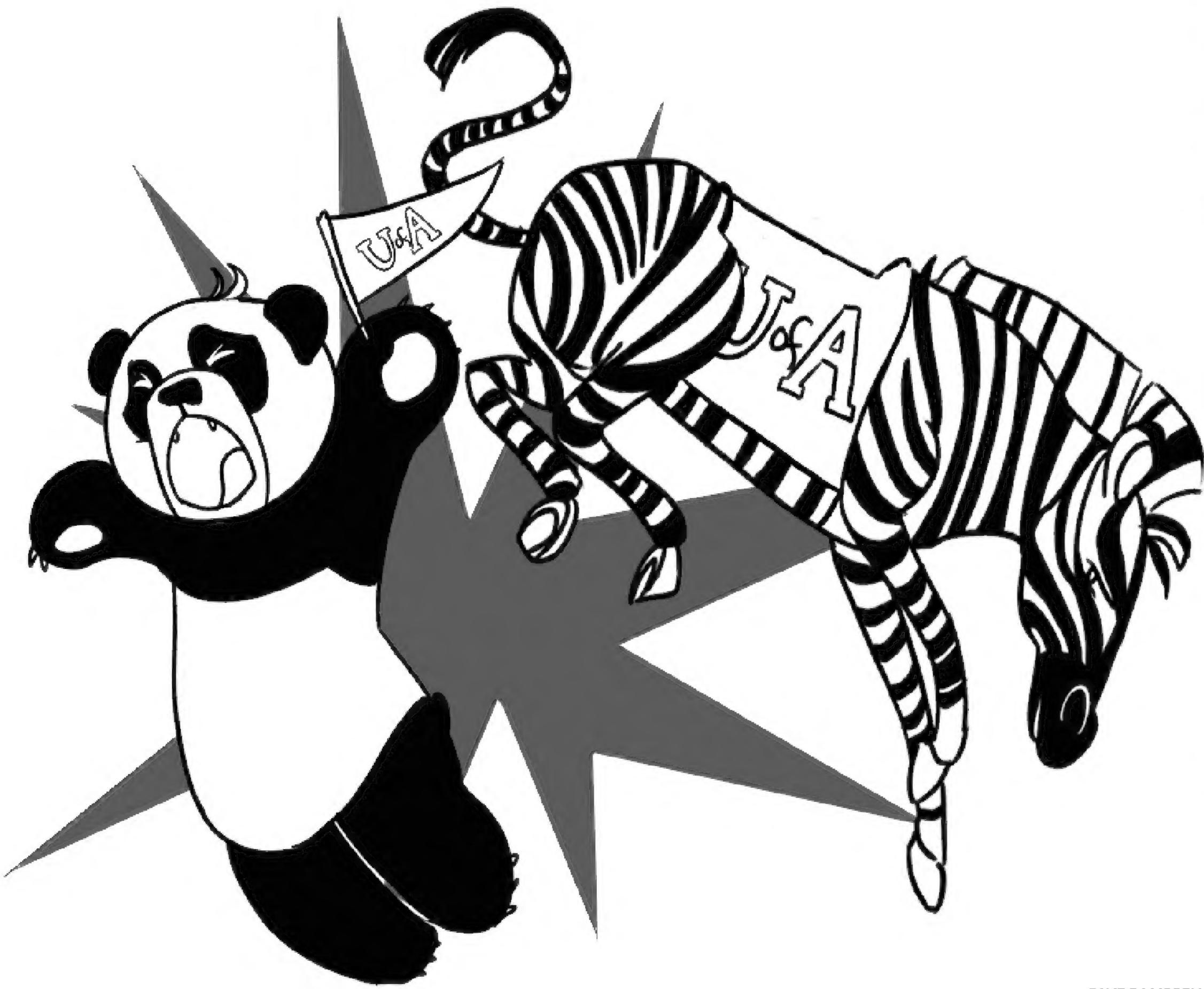
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FAYE CAMPBELL

# U of A's association with bears ridiculous



MIKE CHAFE

Being a student is tough. We face numerous challenges on a daily basis: outrageously priced textbooks, numerous boring lectures, and having to decide between selling vital organs on Kijiji or becoming a high-class male escort to pay for tuition.

However, perhaps the most alarming issue facing students at the moment is that we attend an institution with an extremely lame school mascot. Yes, welcome to the University of Alberta, home of the Bears; be it of the golden or panda variety, the bear is our institution's guardian and the symbol we present to the outside world.

The bear may very well be the lamest member of the animal kingdom. I can't think of a single example of anything cool a bear has ever done. Smokey the Bear? Nothing more than a government patsy who educates children on fire safety. Winnie the Pooh? Not so much a bear as a blob of obesity and shame, he spends the bulk of his time scrounging for honey and skulking along the bottom rungs of society. The Care Bears? It's time for these free-love spreading hippies to pack up their hackie-sacks and head back to Woodstock.

It's safe to say without fear of hyperbole that bears are the sole cause of everything bad that has ever

happened, ever. There are numerous examples — for instance, country music and the Country Bear Jamboree. A little known fact is that John Wilkes Booth, the man who assassinated President Lincoln, was actually a bear. I'm not exactly sure how bears were involved in the War of 1812, but regardless, I'm certain they played an important role. So why must we suffer by having such an embarrassing and pathetic animal as our mascot?

**It's safe to say without fear of hyperbole that bears are the sole cause of everything bad that has ever happened, ever. There are numerous examples — for instance, country music and the Country Bear Jamboree.**

Not to worry — I know just how to fix our mascot fiasco.

I suppose you're wondering first what qualifies me to provide such thoughtful insights on our institution's mascot. Well, first off, I'm a certified genius; in fact, I once guest-lectured at Harvard. Of course, by guest-lectured, I mean used their washroom, and by that, I mean peed in a Snapple bottle outside.

Also, I'm well read. For instance, this one time I found a *National Geographic* on a bus and after perusing all of the topless photos of New

Guinean tribeswomen, I read at least a quarter of an article. Finally, I have a lot of experience in the realm of mascots. At the age of eight, I received a personal letter of eternal damnation from the Pope after sending my mascot idea of "Gary the Abstinent Owl" to the Vatican. I had a great slogan: "Abstinence: it's a hoot!" But I digress.

The reasons for ditching the bear as our mascot are quite obvious. Bears hibernate all winter. We don't want such a lazy creature symbolizing what this university stands for. And secondly, bears are horribly boring. They spend most of their time roaming the woods in search of food and mates. That's not in the least bit impressive; in fact, it sounds a lot like my average Friday night.

The first step to resolving our mascot situation is to ditch the bear for a far superior animal with a unique talent. How about a break-dancing shark, or maybe a zebra who can DJ? Now *that's* a mascot! Next, we must make this mascot relatable to today's average student. Our new mascot should move beyond traditional appearances at major university events, but rather turn up in random lectures and throw wild campus-wide keggers. A mascot like that would be more fun than a North Korean military parade! Finally, we need to add some fireworks, because really, everybody loves fireworks.

Unfortunately, it appears the U of A's allegiance to the bear is firmly entrenched and change won't happen any time in the near future, leaving anti-bear students such as myself to suffer. In my mind, it's an "unbearable" situation.

in a hurry.

Although everyone seems to chide those who bypass ETS and will attempt to convince more people to take transit at every turn, the current system is already woefully inadequate for the existing ridership. Given the price hikes in the U-Pass and fares, ETS can shell out to increase train frequency or add an extra car to the new trains so that more people can be moved and still have room to breathe.

Until that happens, they're being stuffed in the burlap sack.

JORDAN CHING

**THE BURLAP SACK**

As a student living off campus with limited funds, I can't afford to commute and park at school, thanks to the exorbitant costs of parking on campus. Therefore, like many other students not living near campus, I take the LRT to cut down on transportation costs.

Since I'm not within convenient walking distance of a station, I use park n' ride lots. The problem is that

Clareview is full by about 7:45 a.m. and Belvedere is at capacity about a half hour later. I don't mind trading in my car to take the train if it means avoiding Edmonton's horrible drivers, but the lack of parking is a flaw in this otherwise perfect plan.

Getting on the train at Belvedere Station at 8:20 a.m., I'm lucky if there's a single free seat to be had. By Stadium Station, people are pushing their way in. The reverse effect is seen at University Station as people spill onto the platform and crowd it nearly to capacity. If two trains arrive at the same time, you better hope you're not

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- ▶ **Your Campus Computing ID (CCID) and password**—you need this information to access Bear Tracks. If you need help with your CCID please contact the Academic Information and Communication Technologies (AICT) office at [www.ualberta.ca/HELP](http://www.ualberta.ca/HELP).
- ▶ **No special consideration** will be given if a student cannot add or delete a class by the deadline because they did not have their CCID and password.
- ▶ **Classes closed to web registration** require Department consent/permission. You must submit your request to the Department well in advance of the deadline. Campus offices are not open after regular hours. Contact information can be found on the University's website [www.ualberta.ca](http://www.ualberta.ca), under 'Faculties and Departments'.

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▶ Familiarize yourself with Bear Tracks Hours of Operation at [www.registrar.ualberta.ca/beartracks](http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/beartracks)

**Note:** It is your responsibility to safeguard your CCID and password.

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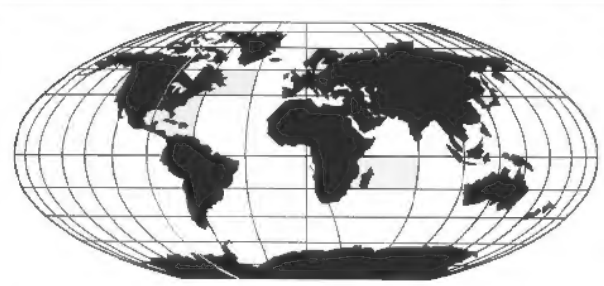
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# U.S. Army still can't handle gays



ALI  
CHURCHILL

At this year's VMAs, Lady Gaga arrived wearing a dress and chapeau made of meat, with an entourage of four gay former service members. It was an act of protest against the American military's policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT), under which gay and lesbian soldiers were discharged because of their sexual orientation. The law was sort of repealed back on May 27, pending a study by the Department of Defense. As part of the study, the DoD distributed a survey in order to gauge soldiers' responses to the repeal of DADT.

The survey, which leaked online over the summer, asks service members a variety of questions to determine their feelings about the possibility of having gay unit members.

One question asks, "Did you ever serve in combat with a service member of any rank whom you believed to be homosexual?" It is quickly followed by another question that asks, "How much did the belief that the service member was gay or lesbian affect the unit's combat performance?"

The implications are as obvious as they are ludicrous — a person's sexual orientation, whether actual or simply suspected, will affect not only their own performance, but the performance of those surrounding them.

"Earlier this month, California judge Virginia A. Philips had the proverbial cojones to rule the law violated the constitution on multiple counts, although that should have been glaringly obvious to anyone with a functioning cerebral cortex and a basic moral compass from the outset."

The Log Cabin Republicans, an American lobby group of gay Republicans, has been an active force in bringing about the end of DADT. They estimate that 13,500 people have lost their positions within the U.S. Army based on their sexual orientation since the law's inception in 1994. That's an enormous loss to a nation that is currently involved in major military operations in two countries. Is Uncle Sam so set in his ways that he can afford to give that many able-bodied people the old heave-ho because of their sexual orientation?

Even though repealing the DADT was featured in Obama's presidential campaign, he should receive no credit for this push towards finally achieving equality. As the leader and main executive power of the U.S., Obama has made the very responsible decision to pass the buck all the way over to Congress, although he could have repealed DADT very easily with an executive order. Earlier this month, Californian judge Virginia A. Philips had the proverbial cajones to rule the law violated the constitution on multiple counts, although that should have been glaringly obvious to anyone with a functioning cerebral cortex and a basic moral compass from the outset. Even so, it's a hollow sort of victory, considering a repeal of

DADT was passed in May 2010.

Handing out paperwork doesn't make the law any less unconstitutional; instead, it underlines how offensive and discriminatory DADT is, and signals another constructed delay in the push for equal rights. If the U.S. Military's survey had asked about service members' feelings about black or Jewish soldiers, there would have been an immediate and justifiable outrage.

There is no rational argument that can be made for DADT's continuation and this survey doesn't serve to represent the interests of the members of the United States Army.

The survey obviously isn't about maintaining lines of communication with the troops; instead, it's a clear example of bigotry surrounding the DADT policy. It sends a message, something idiotic that one might find pasted to the side of heavy machinery: "Keep limbs away from moving parts. Do not attempt to stop machine with genitalia. Do not operate in the presence of alternative sexualities."

Don't Ask, Don't Tell and the clusterfuck surrounding it makes one thing abundantly clear: there's only one group that scares the United States Army more than the terrorists, and that's the gays.

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### LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

already-limited visibility to those interested in finding out more about the program. The lack of access to a work phone also disrespects many of the staff in this department, some of whom have been employed by the U of A for more than 40 years.

Admittedly, there will always be someone on the losing side when the U of A has to make hard decisions in times of budget cuts. However, I believe the responsibility to balance the budget fairly rests on those making the decisions that got us in this position, and not on the shoulders of small departments and students who have seemed to take the brunt of the consequences. Steps must be taken to ensure that vulnerable departments are protected during budget cuts because the presence of these unique departments is often the deciding factor that separates a good school from a great one.

JAMES SUDERMAN  
Arts IV

## from THE web

### Editorial on Mathewson resignation a flop

RE: ("Lack of bylaws no excuse for SU execs," Justin Bell, September 9)

This twisted logic of this editorial is laughable at best. In stating that "the executives should not have made

themselves the sole arbiters of Mathewson's future," it deliberately — or negligently — ignores that the decision to resign was ultimately Mathewson's own.

Had he wanted to stay on, or had he even disagreed with the other executives' valid concerns about his performance, he could have addressed the issue in council when the motion to impeach him was brought forward.

Kory, smartly recognizing his failures as president, opted to resign on his own. Pretending that the other execs somehow strong-armed him with the threat of using the legitimate processes is disgraceful. Shame on you, Justin Bell.

"ABCDEFG"  
Via Internet

### Thriving Ivory album a stunning success

RE: (Album Review: Thriving Ivory — Through Yourself & Back Again, Madeline Smith, September 14)

This is a great album put together by a band with heart. Their thoughtful lyrics are unique and their music moves me. It's unfortunate that some are quick to put down great music.

"SARAH"  
Via Internet

### Sports prediction somewhat floppy

RE: ("Which team will drink from the coveted Stanley Cup?," Sports Staff,

September 13")

Andrew Booth writes: "L.A. is going to hoist Lord Stanley's Cup this year because, quite simply, they have an Olympic gold medalist on their squad and one of the best players in the league to lead their roster. In only his second season, Drew Doughty's already been nominated for the Norris Trophy."

Based on that logic, shouldn't the Blackhawks repeat as Stanley Cup Champions? After all, they've got three Olympic gold medalists and a silver medalist, and Duncan Keith wasn't only a Norris Trophy nominee; he was the 2010 winner.

JONAS TESLA  
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, sent via paper aeroplane or emailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature.

The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 400 words, and should include the author's name, program, and year of study to be considered for publication.

Furthermore, emails featuring excessive amounts of exclamation marks, all-caps, large font sizes, and emoticons, are liable to be ridiculed mercilessly by the editorial staff.



# City Centre Airport finally shot down

Decades-old debate about airport has hopefully come to an end — please?



ALIX KEMP

In a surprise ending that shocked absolutely no one, the Envision Edmonton petition to keep the City Centre Airport open came up approximately 4,500 signatures short of the required 78,244, despite collecting nearly 100,000 in total. City council also voted against holding a plebiscite on the airport despite the petition's failure, hopefully putting an end to the whole debate — and it's about time.

Envision Edmonton chairman Charles Allard is of course claiming foul play, saying that Mayor Stephen Mandel influenced the results of the official count. Nobody's shocked that Allard can't take defeat gracefully — after all, the man has been trying to revive a facility that's been dying a slow death for the last 50 years.

Over the past few months, I've done everything in my power to ignore the debate surrounding Edmonton's two airports, dodging Envision's volunteers at city festivals and blocking discussions on Facebook and Twitter. It's not that I don't care, it's just that, well — actually, I really don't care.

The number of flights using that

airport has dramatically decreased over the past five years. But supporters of keeping the airport open cited a number of reasons for their position — among those, the argument that the City Centre Airport was necessary for Medevac services that transport patients from northern communities to Edmonton hospitals.

**Over the past months, I've done everything in my power to ignore the debate surrounding Edmonton's two airports. [...] It's not that I don't care, it's just that, well — I really don't care.**

However, the president of the Yukon Medical Association Rao Tadepalli described the municipal airport's closure as "not a big issue." Besides just redirecting traffic to the International Airport, several Edmonton hospitals, including the University of Alberta hospital and Royal Alexandra, have helipads that could potentially be renovated and re-opened.

Reasons for closing the airport far outnumber those for keeping it open. The City Centre Airport is a massive tract of land close to the city core, and

it's sadly being wasted. Meanwhile, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) essentially has nowhere to go. But with the airport closure, negotiations have already begun with NAIT so they can expand into some of the space left by the airport. But besides allowing growth for NAIT, there are multiple proposals for that space that offer better uses for the land, including low-cost and environmentally-friendly housing with nearby LRT service, and park space.

As well, closing the airport could save the city — and by extension, taxpayers — up to \$200 million on the upcoming northwest LRT expansion, since it won't be necessary to tunnel under the Yellowhead Trail. We'll also save the \$10 million that would be required to update runway 16-34 and make it useable again — which would only make up part of the upgrades desperately needed by the run down airport.

Of course, we can only hope that most of the arguments are now redundant — after all, the petition failed, council voted against holding a plebiscite, and supposedly this mess is finally decided: the facility will be completely closed by 2024. Allard has said his group isn't planning to mount a legal challenge to the city's ruling, which hopefully means he's willing to let this issue finally die.

So can we please stop talking about this now?



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAN MCKECHNIE  
REJECTED Thousands of the 92,563 signatures collected were deemed invalid.

RESTON COMIC

JULY No. 2

LITTLE GROUCHY

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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

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# All the world's stage

Ever since I started playing when I was five years old, I've been a fan of the beautiful game of football — soccer for us North Americans. Although I peaked as a player in junior high, playing at a provincial level for a couple years, I never stopped loving soccer. Little did I know in my early years that my love of the game would eventually take me half a world away to watch the ultimate competition in person.

While I would catch an occasional English Premier or Bundesliga game, I've always been more partial to international competition. My first real taste of it was in Berlin during the 2006 FIFA World Cup. My brothers, uncle, and I had tickets to the Germany-Argentina quarter-final in Olympic Stadium, and the atmosphere generated by 70,000 Germans when their team won in penalties was enough to hook me; I had to experience the rush again.

I don't remember when I decided that I would be making the trip to South Africa for the 2010 World Cup, but I knew that, as a med student, the number of summer hours I had free were dwindling. I had no idea what the country was like; my perceptions were basically limited to Nelson Mandela, apartheid, and their significant problems with the spread of AIDS. So, armed with a credit card and a copy of *Lonely Planet*, I booked hostels and tickets. Not knowing what to expect, I walked onto the plane and was on my way.

Writing and Photography  
by Devin Frobb

## Shantytowns and satellites

I arrived in South Africa's mother city, Cape Town, on June 8 at about 10 a.m. local time after an excruciating 37 hours of travel. It was immediately clear, exiting the plane, how World Cup fever had taken over the nation. Flags of the 32 competing countries were draped all over the airport, consoles were available to print out game tickets, and a larger-than-life plush model of Zakumi, the green-haired leopard mascot of the World Cup, stood at the entrance.

The shuttle to my hostel was driven by a chubby Afrikaner who still had crumbs from his late breakfast stuck in his stubble. He reported being busier than ever due to the huge influx of visitors in the days prior to the start of the games, and the 20-minute drive indicated the sense of urgency as last-minute preparations were made to the city. Crews were busy hanging banners on streetlights or cleaning the roads, while some were pouring concrete into moulds to finish sidewalks.

The drive cemented a few preconceived notions about South Africa into my head. The natural beauty of the country was reflected in the majesty of Table Mountain looming before me, its flat peak covered in a thin sheet of cloud against an otherwise clear sky. The gap between the rich and the poor was also readily apparent. On the one side of the highway were

multimillion-dollar homes with pools and 10-foot electrified security fences around their perimeters, while on the other were sprawling townships consisting of thousands of shacks constructed mostly from corrugated sheet metal. Ironically, these shanties were also littered with satellite dishes on the roofs and BMWs in the driveways, a testament to the materialistic 'big man' culture prevalent in the country — everyone wants the biggest and best toys.

My hostel was on Long Street, Cape Town's rowdier and more colourful Whyte Avenue equivalent. Locals dressed in vibrant yellow and green South African jerseys wandered the street day and night, blowing vuvuzelas and warmly greeting foreigners. The street scene escalated until June 10, the day before the games opened, when the streets were packed with people until the early hours of June 12. Blaring vuvuzelas made it nigh impossible to sleep.

## The sound of a thousand hornets

As annoyed as people were with those long plastic horns, the World Cup would have felt strangely empty without their characteristic drone. An intricate part of South African football culture, vuvuzelas were in the mouths of every South African from the minute I arrived in Cape Town, and were soon possessed by most visitors. They came in all shapes and sizes, with some

measuring 20 feet long while others were covered in intricate sheaths of glass beads worth hundreds of dollars. I bought myself something in the middle of the road, made of sturdier plastic covered in a synthetic cover with German colours and a handy carrying strap clipped onto it.

I was never annoyed by these horns, which people blew sporadically for no apparent reason. I equate my vuvuzela experience to smoking; if you're the one doing it, you don't seem to mind others doing the same thing. The only time that they would become truly deafening was when everyone in the stadium co-ordinated to deliver pulses of sound, which escalated in seconds to a roaring cacophony. What I would have liked to see would have been a pamphlet on vuvuzela etiquette; I couldn't count how many times that someone sitting behind me was letting their nine-year-old blow it in my ear instead of up into the air. And it was usually in support of the hometown team.

## 'The Boys'

Bafana Bafana — or 'the boys,' as South Africa's national team was affectionately known — made the stadiums and the streets in South Africa electric whenever they played and, according to many locals and media, brought with them a sense of fervent nationalist pride that was unabashedly compared to levels during the end of apartheid





in 1990 or Nelson Mandela's subsequent election as president in 1994. Even those who would normally have no desire to watch a South African football match were drawn into the spectacle.

#### The main attraction

I had the opportunity to attend eight matches throughout my time in South Africa, including five round-robin games and three in the knockout stages, which took place in five different venues.

What was displayed on the screens in the stadiums before a game was very strictly dictated by FIFA and so was pretty much uniform throughout the tournament. I can't tell you how many times I've watched Shakira's "Waka Waka" music video, seen a "Wavin' Flag" Coca-Cola ad, or been told by Carles Puyol the importance of washing my hands while waiting for a match to start.

Although I expected food and drink to be overpriced at any World Cup stadium, I will always be disappointed by the selection of alcoholic beverages at games. As in Germany in 2006, the official beer of the World Cup was Budweiser served in 473 mL plastic brown bottles and was the only alcohol you could buy at any venue. Although each of these Buds was only about \$4 CDN, it irked me that I flew halfway around the world to drink cheap American beer that I wouldn't touch back home.

#### It's about the people you're with

Above all else, the football fans defined the ambience. I had the privilege of sitting with fellow soccer fanatics from all corners of the world. Some were laid-back, some were fervently dedicated to their squads, and some were just plain pissed off at everything.

Watching an African team play always added an element of excitement and zeal from the fans, emotions that weren't always elicited by teams from other continents. Even though the colours in the stadiums did not usually indicate solidarity to any specific country, it was clear that the majority of South Africans were cheering for their fellow Africans. It was clear who was cheering for Greece at their game against Nigeria in Bloemfontein, as they were decked out in blue and white clothes, flags, and face paint, while the green and white of Nigeria was only present in small pockets. But when the roster for the Nigerian squad was announced, the cheers from those in South African yellow drowned out anything the Greeks could muster.

My most amusing fan experience was in Port Elizabeth, where I sat in a lower bowl section that was packed with Brazilian fans watching their country take on the Netherlands in the quarter-finals. I knew the Brazilians took their football seriously, but I didn't know to what extent. I also didn't know what a mistake it was to wear an orange shirt, even though I entered the stadium relatively neutral.

Long before the game had started, our section was full of Brazilians who had arrived relatively early. Due to the more expensive prices and the lack of an African squad, the vuvuzelas had thinned out and I was finally able to enjoy some enthusiastic, co-ordinated chanting, even though I couldn't understand any Portuguese. My orange attire prompted one of the more inebriated, enthusiastic fans to shake me violently until I agreed to cheer for Brazil, and I didn't escape his grasp without getting yellow and green stripes painted on my cheeks. During the game, a meek-looking moustachioed fan in the seat next to me stood up and cursed at the officials any time anything went the way of the Dutch, even if it was something as minor as a throw-in possession. I heard the word puta — loosely translated as "bitch" in Portuguese — more times than I cared to.

#### Soccer needs a majestic home

South Africa spent billions upgrading old stadiums and building new ones in order to welcome the world, and it showed. I was able to see games in four of the five brand new stadiums in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Durban, and Johannesburg. While all architecturally unique and spectacular — the most impressive being Durban's Moses Mabhida Stadium, with an arch extending 106 metres above the long axis of the pitch — nothing compared to the experience of visiting the centre of football in South Africa.



#### Johannesburg's Soccer City

Situated just outside the sprawling township of Soweto, Soccer City was essentially isolated from the hustle and bustle of the nearby city. Shaped like an earthen African pot and surrounded by a ring of lights at its base representing a fire underneath, "The Calabash" was the crown jewel of South Africa's World Cup theaters. As we drove closer, the streets became congested with fans sticking their heads out of windows and sun-

Final. Using the phone of my friend Thayendran, who had generously allowed me to live with him and his family in Pretoria, we figured out where each one pointed. However, the experience was not complete until the nearly 85 000 seats were filled, buzzing with fans from all corners of the world and the drone of their horns. Whenever Brazil, the Ivory Coast, or Germany scored, the building erupted and could be heard for miles through the night air.

#### This is still a vacation

I spent a total of five weeks in the Rainbow Nation, so of course I had to have a diversion or two from football. My adventures on the side ranged from the exhilarating to the downright sketchy, but no matter what, they all added to the experience that was South Africa.

I met two new friends, Lisa and CJ, at my hostel in Port Elizabeth, and during our first night of partying on the town, I made a drunken promise that I would go bungee jumping with them the next day. This good decision was the result of a shot called a Sowetan Toilet earlier that night. We set off the next day for Bloukrans, a small town about two hours from Port Elizabeth, in Lisa's rental car. Just outside of town was a bridge that was home to the highest commercial bungee jump in the world, towering 216 metres over a picturesque gorge. It was touch and go as to whether I was allowed to jump, as there were

Jumping into the car of a total stranger after a night of heavy drinking in one of the more dangerous cities in a country with an astronomical crime (and murder) rate seemed like a good idea at the time, but hindsight is 20/20.

Although each of these Buds was only about \$4 CDN, it irked me that I flew halfway around the world to drink cheap American beer that I wouldn't touch back home.



many without reservations begging for spots, but at the last minute I managed to squeeze into Lisa and CJ's group.

I've never felt a stronger adrenaline surge in my life. It's something you can only get free-falling with the ground coming towards you faster than you can think and nothing but the open air rushing past your ears. I remember thinking about what would happen if the rope didn't catch me, but I didn't have time to put emotion into the equation. Luckily, my descent slowed and I was snapped back up, my legs kicking when gravity equalled the pull of the elastic and I was suspended in midair for a fraction of a second. When I finally came to a stop, I had a few minutes to hang upside down, enjoying the tranquility and beauty of the African sun shimmering on the Indian Ocean.

But not all of my experiences would be rated PG. In Durban, I was forced to stay in a guesthouse since all but the dirtiest of hostels were fully booked for the Germany/Spain semifinal the next night, which I was lucky enough to be attending. However, I did not feel like sitting alone in my room to watch the first of the two semifinals, so I headed to a nearby watering hole to take in the match.

It was at a local pub that I met Allan, a middle-aged Indian banker who struck up good conversation and bought me a Castle lager. The more we talked and the more we drank, the more I liked this husband and father of one. Plus, each drink I bought cost me only about \$1.30 CDN — pennies compared to the price of booze back home. When the game was over and the locals began stumbling home, he suggested we go somewhere else for a drink. I was in a sociable mood, so I agreed.

Jumping into the car of a total stranger after a night of heavy drinking in one of the more dangerous cities in a country with an astronomical crime (and murder) rate seemed like a good idea at the time, but hindsight is 20/20. After a few minutes of driving, the streets were becoming more deserted and the urban atmosphere began to look more dilapidated. We pulled up in front of the only lit building in sight and made our way through the iron-barred door, which was guarded by a huge black man named Tiny — a name so clichéd that I couldn't possibly make it up. Inside this humble abode were scantily-clad women, whom Allan seemed to know very well, and more than a few scruffy men.

It did not take me long to realize that I was in a brothel, which was conveniently disguised as an escort service. I sobered up quickly and called a cab in the bathroom. I had given the dispatcher the wrong address, but with the help of a friendly parking attendant named Tommy, the taxi eventually whisked me off to the safety of my guesthouse, free of both STIs and open knife wounds.

#### All good things must come to an end

I watched the World Cup final on a beach in Durban, home of the world's largest FIFA fan parks, in the wind and rain of winter. I was sandwiched between fans of all sorts on a lumpy bed of sand as we crammed in to watch the game. It was uncomfortable to say the least, and I ended up sacrificing my line of sight for a standing position on the periphery for the second half.

For me, the final was not about Spain beating the Netherlands to win the World Cup. The final marked the end of my long journey, starting in the mother city of Cape Town, through the deep canyon outside Port Elizabeth, and the streets of Johannesburg, ending on the beaches of Durban. I had lived and breathed football like few others get to experience, but I was lucky enough to be able to do so in one of the most colourful countries on the planet.

The last half of July was spent with my uncle in the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Beautiful in their own right, it felt like the colour and the vibrancy I experienced on the south coast of Africa had been turned down several notches. I felt too safe, too common; in South Africa, I was a visible minority almost everywhere I went, but now I just blended into the background. Drum music and dancing had erupted at almost every turn throughout the streets, while nothing except traffic was heard through the roads and alleyways of the European cities. Once I returned to Edmonton, the familiarity felt overwhelming.

I won't soon forget my time in South Africa and I know I will go back someday. It's an amazing place to go to talk to the wonderful people, enjoy the gorgeous scenery, and be subjected to its turbulent political history. But while the World Cup may not be back there any time soon, its legacy will add to not only the appeal and flavour of this eternally magnificent country, but to all of Africa as well.

**To check out Devin's original blog posts while he was in South Africa, visit:**  
[thegatewayonline.ca/blogs/world-cup](http://thegatewayonline.ca/blogs/world-cup)





## social intercourse

### Stand Up: Make Poverty History

Friday, September 17 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Varsity Field

According to [makepovertyhistory.ca](http://makepovertyhistory.ca), “50,000 people die each day from poverty-related causes.” If there’s any possibility of changing these horrifying statistic even a little bit, then this event is worth the small amount of time it will take between classes. Join hundreds of fellow students on campus and thousands of Canadians taking a proactive stance against the effects of world poverty.

### D.O.A

*With the Dirtbags, Skully & the Hypocrites, and Suicidal Cop*

Friday, September 17 at 9 p.m.  
New City Compound (10081 Jasper Avenue)  
\$18 at [newcitycompound.com](http://newcitycompound.com)

Sure, Americans had Black Flag and Minor Threat in the ‘80s. But much like our much stronger, better-tasting beer, Canadians fought back with faster, more powerful hardcore punk in the form of SNFU and D.O.A. And while Chi-Pig and the former band have been touring hard as of late, D.O.A.’s Joey “Shithead” Keithley only brings his angry gang through town as often as they release an album. Okay, so once a year isn’t such a long wait, but people probably thought they could see the Sex Pistols “next time” too. Then Sid Vicious died and Johnny Rotten became a caricature of his former self. If you like brews and fast music, there really is no other reasonable option this Friday night. The title of their 2009 album *Kings of Punk, Hockey and Beer* succinctly sums up everything that you need to know about the band.

### Audio/Rocketry

Saturday, September 18 from 4–6 p.m.  
Black Dog Freehouse (10425 Whyte Ave.)  
Free

While impatiently waiting for my student loan to be sorted out, I’m always searching for ways to spend my time on an extremely limited budget. Fortunately, Joe Vickers and Matt Murphy’s project Audio/Rocketry is currently my favourite Edmonton band and will be playing at Black Dog this weekend, for free. You may not think that it means anything, but let me share a little anecdote with you. Once upon a time, an under-age fan of The Smalls pledged his undying love for Corb Lund’s side project. Now Lund and his Hurlin’ Albertans are taking over the world with their catchy songs about life in Alberta. Of course, instead of seeing them play little places like a flat deck in a tent at a rodeo, you have to suffer through a hollow set at Rexall. So don’t miss out on this free show. Go see A/R while they’re still playing tiny shows in the city.

### Helmet

*With Bison B.C.*

Saturday, September 18 at 9 p.m.  
Starlite Room (10030-102 St.)  
\$20 at Blackbyrd, Listen, Freecloud, and [foundationconcerts.com](http://foundationconcerts.com)

When the average Gateway reader was becoming acquainted with the *Space Jam* soundtrack, I was being exposed to music on the fringes of popularity by the older siblings of my friends. While Nirvana brought watered-down alternative music to the masses, I was fascinated by the oddballs of the scene, like Pavement and Sonic Youth. When Limp Bizkit and Korn infected the world with nu-metal a few years later, I was listening to Deftones and Helmet. Even though these groups never matched the record sales of their mainstream peers, they made up for it through experimentation and extensive catalogues of excellent albums. Where Nirvana and Limp Bizkit (thankfully) crumbled under the weight of their enormous egos, these four bands are still around almost two decades later. Chances are good that you may not be familiar with Helmet, but if you’re into metal, that shouldn’t prevent you from stage-diving at their show. Just remember to wear an, ahem, helmet.

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN  
Blumhagen in the wind



# Chali 2na no hip-hop dinosaur

But that doesn’t mean he’s opposed to a Jurassic 5 reunion, or that he won’t work for Springsteen

## musicpreview

### Chali 2na

*With The Lytics, Mitchmatic, and DJ Twist*

Friday, September 17 at 9 p.m.  
The Pawn Shop (10551-82 Ave.)  
\$15 at Blackbyrd, Foosh, Soular, and [foundationconcerts.com](http://foundationconcerts.com)

### NICK FROST

Arts & Entertainment Staff

Listening to Chali 2na speak on the phone from Albany, New York, it’s difficult not to be reminded that his trademark baritone has provided hip-hop listeners with one of the most unmistakable voices for the past 17 years. As such, the Chicago-born, Los Angeles-based MC and his penchant for spitting rhymes have made him an optimal choice for collaborations which span both international borders and musical genres over the last decade. The self-described “Verbal Herman Munster” has left indelible marks on the songbooks of artists such as Dave Matthews, Brazil’s Sergio Mendes, and Swiss rapper Gimma.

Every now and then, however, opportunity will come knocking at 2na’s door, presenting him scenarios to create music with other artists that he never would’ve imagined possible beyond mere daydreaming. And in some of those instances, the 40-year-old MC is quick to admit that he still gets rather easily star-struck.

Back in October 2004, as a member of the now-defunct hip-hop quintet Jurassic 5, 2na received an invite along with his bandmates to accompany the Vote for Change tour, a series of pre-presidential election awareness concerts headlined by none other than the personification of overtly patriotic American rock himself: Bruce Springsteen. At the time, 2na recognized and lauded Springsteen’s status as a rock icon, but had interesting presumptions about what the man himself would actually be like.

“The country calls this guy ‘The Boss.’ Middle

America calls this guy ‘The Boss.’ He’s got to be one of those fuckin’ redneck assholes — he’s got to be!” 2na remembers thinking prior to his initial meeting with Springsteen. “But this dude was amazing. He was amazing and I appreciate the shit out of that dude.”

Singing alongside equally recognizable acts like R.E.M., Kenny “Babyface” Edmonds, and John Mellencamp for one song that brought all of the performers together, 2na felt more like a minnow sharing the stage with what he called “music royalty.” It was Springsteen, however, who took the initiative in making him and the rest of his J5 counterparts feel relaxed in this “rock star heaven” situation.

**“Bruce [Springsteen] was like, ‘Hey! Kenny! You met these dudes? This is Jurassic 5, man, come talk to these dudes!’ So that was amazing; I was like, ‘Hell yeah, you are the boss, dude. That’s what’s up.’”**

CHALI 2NA

“Out of all of them dudes, man, Bruce made us feel comfortable amongst that because he knew we wasn’t nowhere the calibre of these guys,” 2na recalls fondly. “I just remember him coming to the dressing room and just talking us down and getting on the stage with everybody, and making people come talk to us — like fuckin’ Babyface.

“I’m thinking ‘Babyface, he’s probably the closest thing to our genre’ and he acted like he ain’t gonna say nothing to us. Bruce was like, ‘Hey! Kenny! You met these dudes? This is Jurassic 5, man, come talk to these dudes!’ So that was amazing; I was like, ‘Hell yeah, you are the boss, dude. That’s what’s up.’”

It has been just over three and a half years

since the members of Jurassic 5 went their separate ways due to internal problems and “bad homies” — a period that 2na says ended like a “bad marriage.” After reflecting on the split for a brief period afterwards and questioning whether or not his heart was still in hip-hop, he pressed on undeterred, ready to launch his solo efforts.

With three successful albums to his credit (including his latest mixtape album *Fish Market: Part 2*) and now another go at the touring circuit, 2na says that many people still believe it’s a foregone conclusion that the dissolution of J5 was a byproduct of his success away from the group and an uncontrollable itch to go solo. Those accusations, he says, are still completely baseless.

“What I don’t like is that because I’m still out here, [...] people see me maybe more sometimes than the rest of the fellas — people will blame me like, ‘ah, he just wanted to do his solo shit!’” 2na explains with a wry chuckle. “And it makes me laugh, ‘cause I’m like, ‘If you only knew what that was even about,’ you know? It was about our dirty laundry and [...] nobody knew or saw that shit coming. We did, but y’all didn’t.”

For now, 2na has his head wrapped around coming back to Canada for the first time since playing the Rock the Bells tour in Victoria in 2009 and isn’t looking too far into the future. While both of us acknowledge that the lingering question of “will there be a Jurassic 5 reunion?” is cliché and one that fans ask him nine times out of ten, 2na still believes that it’s an honest question worth asking, but one that simply can’t be answered right now.

“They say that time heals all wounds and I believe that, and I’m not against [a possible reunion] — I’m not like, ‘Fuck that! Hell no!’,” 2na states emphatically. “I love them dudes. I know their kids, man. We grew up together in a lot of ways, so it’s like, I would want us all to be okay in whatever endeavours we do.

“But yeah, man, if there’s a chance — the chance will be if we can all sit down and just hammer out our differences from the internal aspect, shit that the people didn’t see. If we can fix that aspect of us, then, yeah, you will see a J5 reunion.”



Lady Gaga has no penis.  
Lady Gaga needs no penis.

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2	THE JOE • PLAYFIGHT
3	THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVE MAYBE WE COULD BE HOLY
4	ALOE BLACC • GOOD THINGS
5	RODNEY DECROO • QUEEN MARY TRASH
6	THE BOOKS • THE WAY OUT
7	SALINAS • SALINAS
8	PS I LOVE YOU MEET ME AT THE MUSTER STATION
9	APHASIA THE CROCODILE SOCIETY OF APHASIA
10	THE BLACK ANGELS • POSPHENE DREAM
11	GIANNA LAUREN SOME MOVE CLOSER, SOME MOVE ON
12	FOREST CITY LOVERS • CARRIAGE
13	Ô PAON • COURSES
14	MID PINES • UNMEASURE
15	IVARDENSPHERE • REMIXES VOL-1

## NEWS & EVENTS

### New Volunteer Orientations September 22nd and 25th

Have you ever thought about working in radio?  
CJSR is Edmonton's only volunteer-run radio station. We welcome all students to get involved in YOUR community radio station. CJSR will be holding new volunteer orientations on Wednesday, September 22nd and Saturday, September 25th. For information on dates and times, please e-mail volunteer@cjsr.com.



# No Butts about Brent

Corner Gas creator talks new movie, partisan politics, and Twitter

## comedy preview

### Brent Butt

Friday, September 17 at 8 p.m.  
River Cree Resort & Casino (300 East Lapotac Blvd., Enoch, AB)  
\$39.50-\$49.50 at Ticketmaster

EVAN MUDRYK  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Considering what a lazy, contented oaf his character Brent Leroy was, happy just reading comic books and eating chili cheese dogs all day, Brent Butt is staying busy following his six years on the air as the star of *Corner Gas*. He's filming the second season of his new show *Hiccups* this month, and is even producing a movie called *No Clue*, which he will also star in.

It's a "classic detective whodunnit" as Butt describes it, from a script that he also wrote. Just don't expect him to jump into the director's chair though, and become the Canadian version of Woody Allen.

"I thought the smart move would be to hire somebody who had directed a movie before," Butt says. "That's the kind of smart move that I make as a producer."

Brent Butt seems to be making a lot of intelligent decisions. After all, his new show *Hiccups* was picked up for a second season, and he even seems to be getting on board with the social media train, becoming a rather prolific Twitter user in the past year to connect with his fans — though that's not to say the Internet has been

completely kind to him.

"There's [someone] out there [who's got] a Brent Butt hate site [...] He's got about 11 followers, so I'm not too worried about it," he admits.

For the most part though, Canada seems to adore Butt's work. *Corner Gas* is one of the most recognized Canadian sitcoms within the country and around the world. He can't even prevent his celebrity from getting in the way of what would be an otherwise everyday task, but is now, in many ways, part of our heritage.

**"People freak out to see me pumping gas at a highway gas station. They're like, 'what the hell's going on, some kind of promo thing?' Naw, I'm out of gas."**

**BRENT BUTT**  
COMEDIAN AND STAR OF CORNER GAS

"I've had a few occasions where people freak out to see me pumping gas at a highway gas station. They're like, 'What the hell's going on, some kind of promo thing?' Naw, I'm out of gas."

He'll likely forever be associated with his closely named character, who seemed to strike a cord with audiences for his laid-back demeanour and relaxed approach to life in otherwise mundane situations.

Butt even has his name in the dictionary now for the word "staycation,"

which his character coined in one episode of the show. Brent Leroy was in a lot of ways ahead of his time in his acceptance towards taking the easy path. Why make trouble when things are so good already? Why ruin a good thing?

"The Brent Leroy character is a very contented character. He really likes his life and I think that's infectious to some degree. We live in a world where people complain a lot, and here's a guy who thinks he's got life pretty good."

But even when life is good, the government is always irrepressible in its attempts at trying to make things better, or worse, depending on which way the wind is blowing that day. Butt does admit that democracy is "the best we got," but is often baffled by people's convictions and willingness to simply tow the party line, regardless of whether they believe in what their party is doing or not.

"The weird thing about politics, the way the system exists, is you're kind of expected to pick a team and then stick on that team right-or-wrong, no matter what they do. I see people who are defending a liberal, conservative, or socialist agenda, even though you can tell they don't believe what they're saying because it's moronic."

"The political system doesn't jive with how I look at the world," he says. Maybe politicians should take a page from the book of Brent (Butt or Leroy — it doesn't matter) and live life like a simple and small fictional town in Saskatchewan — and enjoy the chili cheese dogs. They're pretty much all you'll ever need.

## album review

### Sall Gibson

Sun Sun Glow  
Red Rug Records

JUSTIN BELL  
Managing Editor



Chick rock went out of style sometime in the late '90s, when Lilith Fair died a horrible, horrible death. Lilith Fair was actually revived this summer, by the way, and while I can't speak to the success of that particular festival, that doesn't change the fact that — to the dismay of fans of good music everywhere — this horrible subgenre seems to be on its way back.

Sall Gibson's new album, *Sun Sun Glow*, tracks a familiar pattern down the middle of rock and folk music, a horrible theme tread upon thousands of times before that makes it feel old before the second track is over. The lilting rock anthem was last considered catchy sometime around when Dawson split up with Joey. Yes, I'm busting out a *Dawson's Creek* reference — it's that

out of date.

There are some good things to say about the album though. If you're the type of person that's in need of some pick-me-up music, tracks such as "Life in Disguise" could be just the thing you're looking for. It's got chirpy lyrics, a slow ballad, and is even set in a major chord. Unfortunately, that marginal praise has exhausted all the good things I can say about this album. The music quality is fine, but songs such as "Taylor Street" and "Three More Days" do little to distinguish Sall Gibson from every other folk rock band out there. This is the same kind of singer-songwriter crap that's been peddled on the ignorant masses — anthems that allegedly empower women that are only mediocre at best.



# Jailbait mature for its age

## theatrepreview

### Jailbait

Directed by Trevor Schmidt

Written by Deirdre O'Connor

Starring Randy Brososky, Melanie Piatocha, Carmela Sison, and Mike Zimmerman

Runs September 16–26 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday matinees at 2 p.m.

Varscona Theatre (10329–83 Avenue)

\$18 for students at the door or at Tix-on-the-Square; matinees are pay what you can

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE  
Senior News Editor

Even though all of the events in the transparently titled *Jailbait* happen over the course of a single night, what occurs is undoubtedly life-changing for the two 15-year-old girls who sneak into a nightclub and meet up with some older men. But as actress Carmela Sison says, “it has to happen.”

“*Jailbait* is about these two friends who are really trying to grow up a little

bit too fast,” Sison explains. “There are a lot of things going on in their lives and they deal with it by having their teenage rebellion. And they end up doing things that they might not be ready for.”

Sison didn’t want to give too much away about what happens during the night on the town, but the title betrays her coyness. The girls presumably receive some hands-on sexual education from the two older men they meet with. But everybody has to grow up eventually, and this play confronts those realities.

“I don’t see anybody saying ‘I don’t know what that’s like,’ because it’s something that has to happen,” Sison says of the accelerated maturity experienced by the girls. “I think there’s something for everybody to relate to, and if you haven’t experienced any of the things happening to the characters, it’s something you know will eventually happen.”

Even the two men the girls meet up with are going through some problems themselves, including bad breakups, but Sison says that none of the characters interact with each other “maliciously.”

“It’s not girls trying to get older

guys. It’s not guys trying to get underage girls. It’s just people who sincerely go into the situation,” she says.

Although Sison says that teenage rebellion is something she feels audiences can relate to, she’s still not sure how they’re going to react to what they see in the play.

“It makes you feel strange, because

you’ve just seen something on stage that you never really want to even think about,” she says. “I think it’s a lot of reflection on your own experience as a teenager.”

But even considering the more serious subject matter, Sison says that the cast has had lots of fun working on the show.

“It’s been fantastic. It’s such a great script that I feel like half my job is already done. I love the cast and I love working with Trevor [Schmidt],” she says. “The title *Jailbait* — there’s something creepy about it. When I tell people that I’m working on a show called *Jailbait*, they always give me a look and go, ‘Oh... Jailbait.’”



SUPPLIED: IAN JACKSON

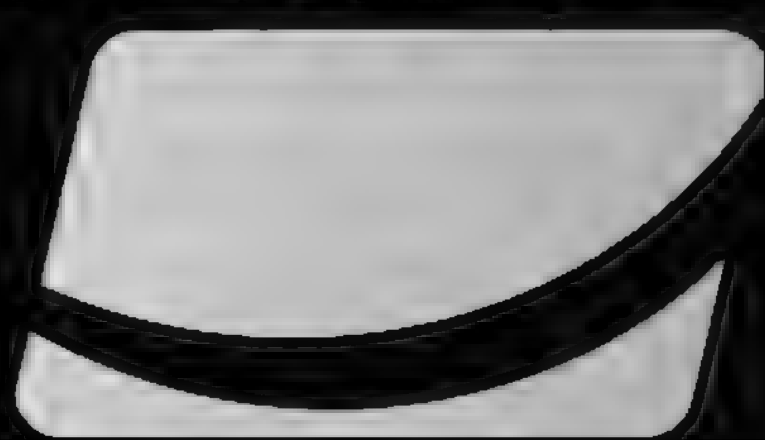
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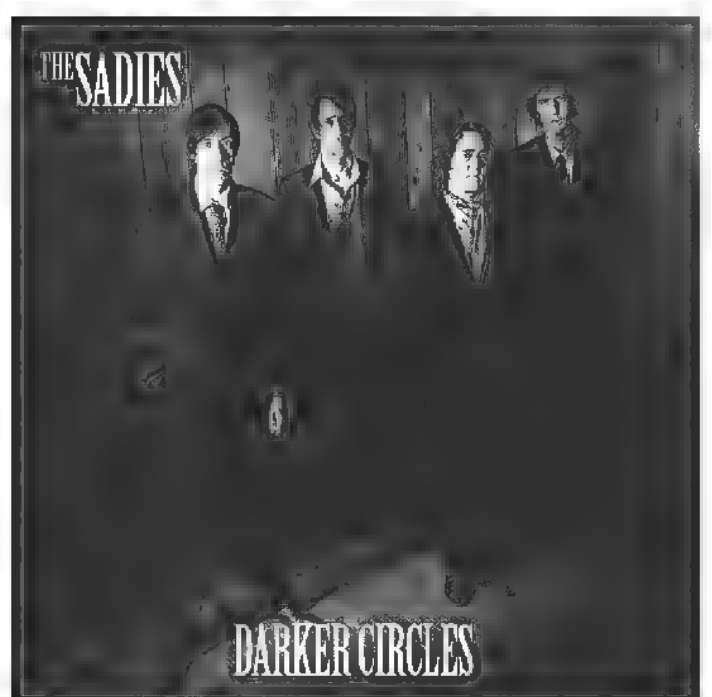
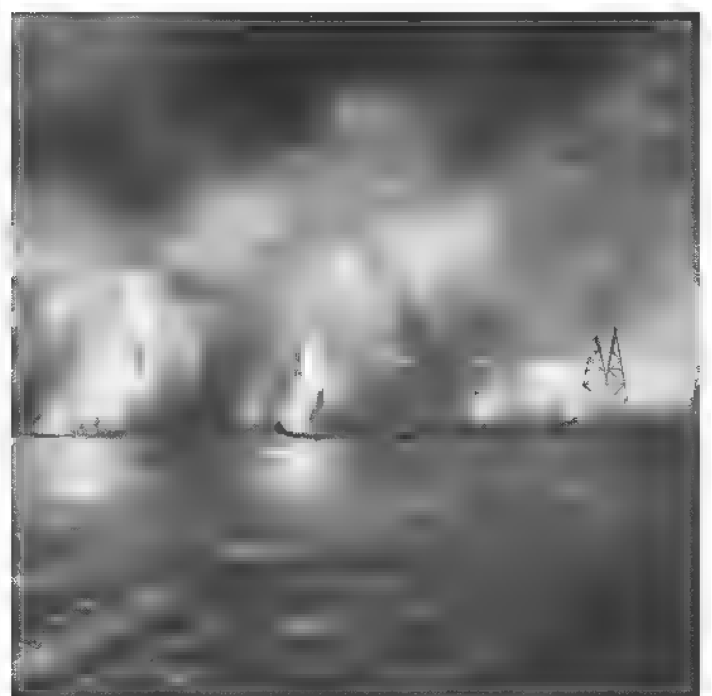
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CANADA'S PUB





WRITTEN BY GRANT CRAWFORD

The Polaris Music Prize is Canada's preeminent music award for the best full-length Canadian album of the past year, awarded solely based on artistic merit regardless of genre, sales, or record label. It's a highly prestigious award for Canadian artists to receive, earning them recognition they might not otherwise garner, as well giving Canadians a chance to celebrate homegrown music.

The selection of the winning album comes in three stages. The 40-album long list is selected by a jury of more than 200 members of the Canadian entertainment industry, who each pick their top five albums. The same jury is also responsible for determining the short list of 10 albums, announced early in July. From there, a grand jury of 11 members will announce the winner on September 20 in Toronto.

Since the inaugural 2006 award, there have been a few winners who won as a result of split votes or voter delirium. In 2006, Final Fantasy (now known as Owen Pallett) beat out Wolf Parade's *Apologies to the Queen Mary*, The New Pornographers' *Twin Cinema*, and Broken Social Scenes' self-titled release in what could mildly be described as one of the biggest upsets ever seen. Similarly in 2007, Patrick Watson was able to win with *Close to Paradise* over such stalwarts as Arcade Fire and Feist. Caribou was the well-deserved winner in 2008 with his album *Andorra*, and in 2009, Toronto hardcore punk band Fucked Up won over Metric with their confrontational but exceptional album *The Chemistry of Common Life*, a step in the right direction for the prize.

Here's a breakdown of the 10 finalists for this year's prize and an explanation of who will win and why.

#### BESNARD LAKES

*THE BESNARD LAKES*

*ARE THE ROARING NIGHT*

The Besnard Lakes often contrast dizzying heights with moments of quiet ambience. With *The Besnard Lakes Are the Roaring Night*, things begin tranquilly like a warm day before exploding into an raging thunderstorm. The album contains dual epic two-part tracks — one about the ocean and another about the sky — and both are prime examples of the ambient to ferocious dynamic shifts of The Besnard Lakes.

Being out on the open ocean or driving through the prairies can be stunningly beautiful, as well are terribly monotonous, depending on your perception. At times, the aural sense of their music becomes overwhelming and one cannot help but feel surrounded by the thick wall of sound created. These moments are contrasted by moments of calming atmosphere, in which one can regain their bearings, and even reflect on their songs and ponder them.

Unfortunately, this quiet ambience — also known by its other name: occasional boredom — means this album is not built to win awards. Every moment of triumph is preceded by moments of anticipation and waiting. It might not be primed for accolades, but it's a suitable listen for a road trip.

#### BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE

*FORGIVENESS ROCK RECORD*

Broken Social Scene consistently delivers a pleasant listen. Despite this being their first album in five years, the band has hardly budged from their niche of recording arty and diverse pop records, which at one moment can sound reserved and personal, before exploding all at once in a grand moment of orchestral passion. *Forgiveness Rock Record* is really a pedestrian outing for BSS who effortlessly found their legs after their absence. Unfortunately, the famously multi-membered band has failed to make any significant steps in any direction. Given that BSS were on top of the indie world the last time they released a record, some will undoubtedly be pleased with this album, which is fine. The band isn't really asking you for forgiveness; they're excising their demons through music.

When Metric failed to take home the prize last year, it showed that it takes more than a well-crafted pop album to win the prize. While Broken Social Scene certainly are more challenging and well-regarded than Metric, they'll likely still fail to win the prize for the same reasons. Honestly, Broken Social Scene is too big to need the Polaris Prize, especially when they're making pedestrian albums.

#### CARIBOU

*SWIM*

Two years ago, Caribou deservedly won the Polaris prize with his album *Andorra*. Now, Dan Snaith has created *Swim*, which isn't just a simple upgrade of the sound of *Andorra*, but a completely new direction. *Swim* begins vibrantly and almost brashly, with "Odessa" pumping out of the speakers in thick rhythmic pulses with a danceable percussion line. The track is more accessible and immediately gratifying than anything else present on his previous winner. *Swim* also manages to impress with its incredible depth, as each track seems to flow organically into one another, creating an organism which is much larger than the sum of its tracks.

Caribou's mastery over dance music is dazzling. It takes repeat listens to move from the outer ripples of the album to the epicentre of Snaith's sound, but it manages to be enjoyable immediately. However, when an artist has so recently won an award, it may affect the voting and hinder their chance at winning again. Good art is always morphing and exploring new territories. While awarding the same artist twice in such a short period may seem like stasis, make no mistake, *Swim* is an evolution.

#### DAN MANGAN

*NICE, NICE, VERY NICE*

The world has enough white guys with guitars looking to wow the world with their words. Dan Mangan is another such singer-songwriter, but he manages to write surprisingly mature folk songs, which, coupled with his gruff voice and clever arrangements, is something to behold. *Nice, Nice, Very Nice* contains some breakout, upbeat songs. The sing-along chorus of "Robots" is liable to get stuck in your head and "Sold" breaks down to a clapping, foot-stomping conclusion.

Mangan is capable of sounding incredibly honest: "We'll drive until the gas is gone / crawl until we feed the soil." Even though "Road Regrets" is about the life of a musician constantly on the road, it rises above this and speaks to the weariness encountered by every person at some point. Author Kurt Vonnegut was able to transcend his science fiction stories and speak to a much wider audience, and Mangan displays a similar quality. "Baskets" finds Mangan lamenting over growing old, which is a strange thing for someone with so much potential and future ahead of him. *Nice, Nice, Very Nice* is mostly just that — nice. Fitting for a country that prides itself on being courteous and respectful, it's my guess that it will take home the top honour.

#### KARKWA

*LES CHEMINS DE VERRE*

*Les Chemins De Verre* is easily the







most depressing album on the list. Its typically acoustic guitar and vocal driven sound combined with percussion and orchestral influences prevent the album from sounding too sparse. It's dark even when the sound isn't. The lyrics sound like a hospital or a funeral, or saying goodbye to someone dear, knowing you won't see them again for a long time. The first track, "Le Pyromane," begins by hinting at arson as a purge, but ends by taking a sinister turn towards immolation.

As much as I don't want to compare this to anything else, I have to mention Bon Iver. Compare "Lump Sum" to "Marie Tu Pleures" and the similarities in the harmonious vocal swells and the stomp-beat acoustic guitar feel are strikingly similar. The last track, "Le Vrai Bonheur" doesn't begin until about 30 seconds of silence have passed, giving the feeling of having overstayed its welcome. When it finally begins, the listener finds that the "bonheur" of the song isn't really present at all — only memories and melancholy.

Musically though, this album probably isn't adventurous enough to win the prize. The arrangements here, while delicate and beautiful, are fairly typical of the genre. But Karkwa are on the right path and I'm interested to see where they go.

OWEN PALLETT

HEARTLAND

To most, the heartland is a place of honest living and traditional values. Owen Pallett's *Heartland*, however, is a narrative mess; it's inhabited by Lewis, a farmer whose idea of a fun Saturday night is leaving the wife and kid at home and heading out for a good bout of ultra violence. Lewis spends his time in an escapist fantasy, grappling with the knowledge that he himself is a creation of Owen Pallett.

The sound of *Heartland* is Pallett's violin. His neo-classical touch doesn't belong in the archetypal heartland, but serves to further demonstrate that this is Pallett's *Heartland*, not ours. As he loops his violin and broadens the sound with decadent and challenging fills and flourishes, the Lewis narrative and his struggles with the fictionality of his life adds emotional complexity to an already multiplex arrangement.

It's polarizing. Those who like it call it elegant and grandiose, and those who don't call it pretentious. I tend to side with the former: Pallett's poly-rhythmic and unknowable *Heartland* has many mysteries to unravel. When Lewis finally kills Pallett in the penultimate track, we find that things still do continue after the creator is gone, — comforting, as Lewis assumes control of his own narrative.

The Polaris Prize has a history of selecting polarizing and grandiose albums, as evidenced by Pallett's win of the inaugural award (then under



the moniker Final Fantasy). But having already won will, like Caribou, serve as a detriment to Pallett, as his supporters have likely been assuaged by past success.

RADIO RADIO

BELMUNDO REGAL

Since its inception, the Prize has championed music out of left field. However, even further left than that is where you'll hear Radio Radio. They're a Francophone hip-hop group who rap in Acadian French (Chiac), incorporating English phrases often enough for there to be English choruses on some tracks, and Chiac words occasionally enough to remind you they're from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Are you still following this?

Right from the beginning, this is the most thoroughly enjoyable and undeniably catchy album of the bunch. There's an incredible six song run in which each tune has beats catchy enough to be single-worthy. The first song "Cargué dans ma chaise" essentially translates into "relaxing in my chair." But it isn't until the minute-long intro to "9 Piece Luggage Set" — which features a spoken-word introduction as to what exactly is in a nine-piece luggage set — that I knew I was laughing with the group and not at them.

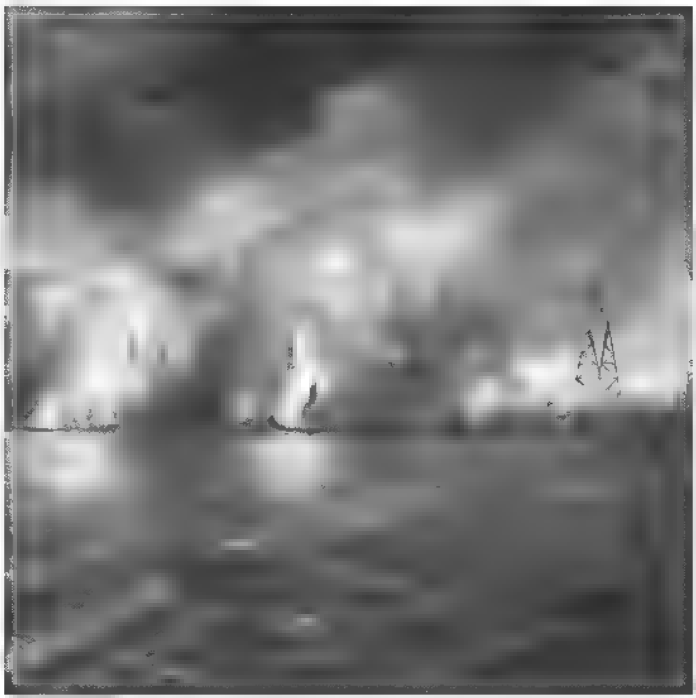
It's more fun than anything else here, but of course *Belmundo Regal* can't win the Polaris Prize — it's just too weird. French hip-hop has too small an audience and the Chiac dialect only further adds its status as a regional oddity. That said, this is certainly the most entertaining album of the group.

THE SADIES

DARKER CIRCLES

Being an alt-country band is a pretty effective way of ensuring you will never achieve any level of commercial success. While the traditional country fan typically eschews anything with the "alt" label — or anything not sold at Wal-Mart, for that matter — most people who aren't country fans simply don't get into the insular world of country at all. The Sadies have spent over a decade eking out an existence as the biggest Canadian alt-country band, even rubbing elbows with some big names (such as Blue Rodeo, The Tragically Hip, and Neko Case), but never receiving any broader recognition.

With "Another Day Again" and "Another Year Again," The Sadies confront darker themes, such as loneliness and mortality. Their sonic influences stretch far beyond country, and there's something here to enjoy, even if you don't typically enjoy the genre. When The Sadies sing "growing old is always hardest on the outcast," you can't help but wonder if the lyrics are autobiographical, but the music behind it is



WHO WILL WIN:	
Dan Mangan	34%
Shad	18%
Caribou	14%
Owen Pallett	12%
Besnard Lakes	10%
Radio Radio	8%
The Sadies	2%
Broken Social Scene	1%
Tegan and Sara	1%
Karkwa	0.1%

so lively, it sounds as if they've only gotten better with age.

The Sadies do have fans amongst the musician and critical communities, and possess the "they would have won the prize had it been around 10 years ago" sentiment behind them, which could put them on the outside chance of an upset here. But — as with most things The Sadies seem to do — the recognition garnered by *Darker Circles* will remain largely in the dark corners and hidden circles of their dedicated fanbase.

SHAD

TSOL

Shad's brand of hip-hop — which lacks both heavy production and auto-tune — sounds very reminiscent of the hip-hop of the '90s. But Shad isn't fronting; he doesn't curse, sings about his faith, and implores the women of the world to keep shining rather than degrading them. Shad succeeds mostly on the strength of his lyrics. His ability to sound thoughtful as well as silly through clever wordplay and colourful flows is impressive. Despite his non-aggressive disposition, Shad's still confident. On "Yaa I Get It," Shad loudly and convincingly proclaims his worth, spitting out rapid-fire flows.

Shad's even capable of laughing at himself. His willingness to not take himself too seriously and all the self-deprecating humour tossed in is part of what makes this album so commendable. With a positive message and solid record, Shad seems poised to win the Polaris Prize. *TSOL* would be the first hip-hop album to win, which would add credibility to the prize. If it weren't for Dan Mangan, I would suggest that this is Shad's year.

TEGAN AND SARA

SAINTHOOD

With 2007's *The Con*, Tegan and Sara received their highest acclaim as well as something of a commercial breakthrough. *Sainthood* is a step forward



WHO SHOULD WIN:	
Caribou	24%
Owen Pallett	17%
Radio Radio	15%
Shad	14%
Karkwa	11%
Besnard Lakes	9%
The Sadies	6%
Broken Social Scene	3%
Dan Mangan	1%
Tegan and Sara	0.01%

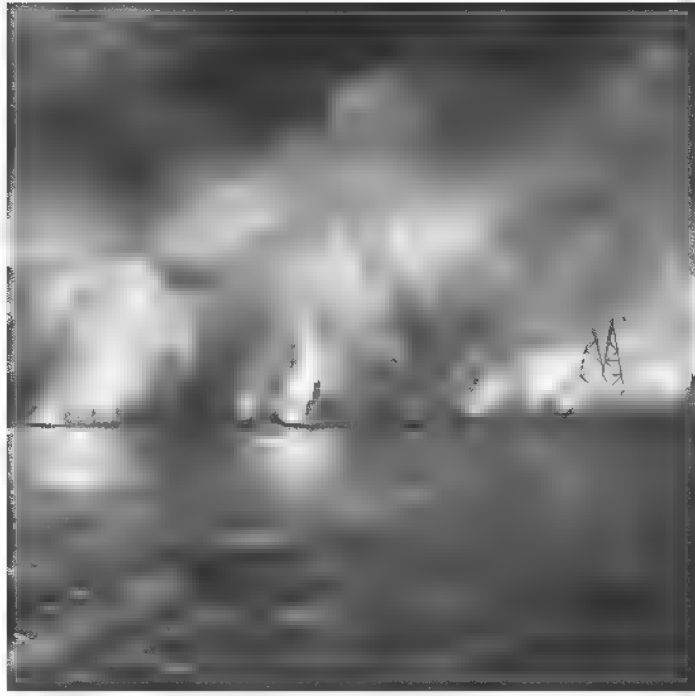
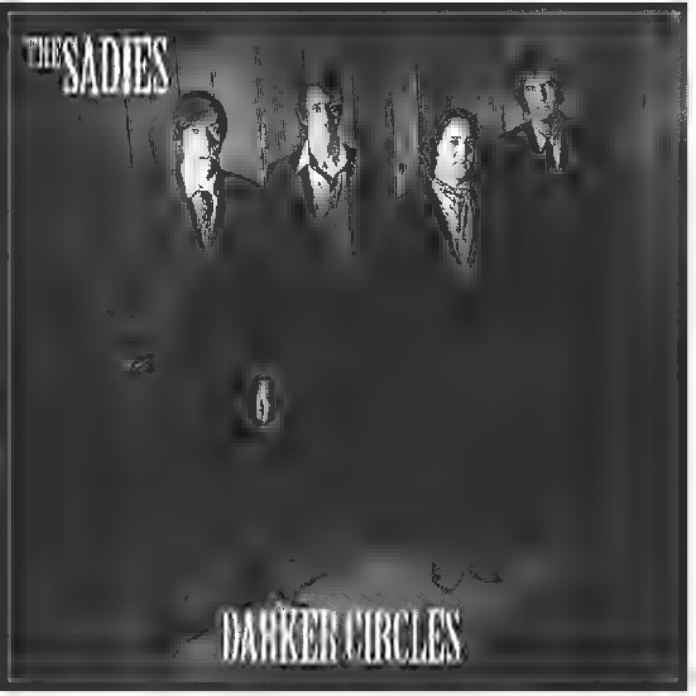
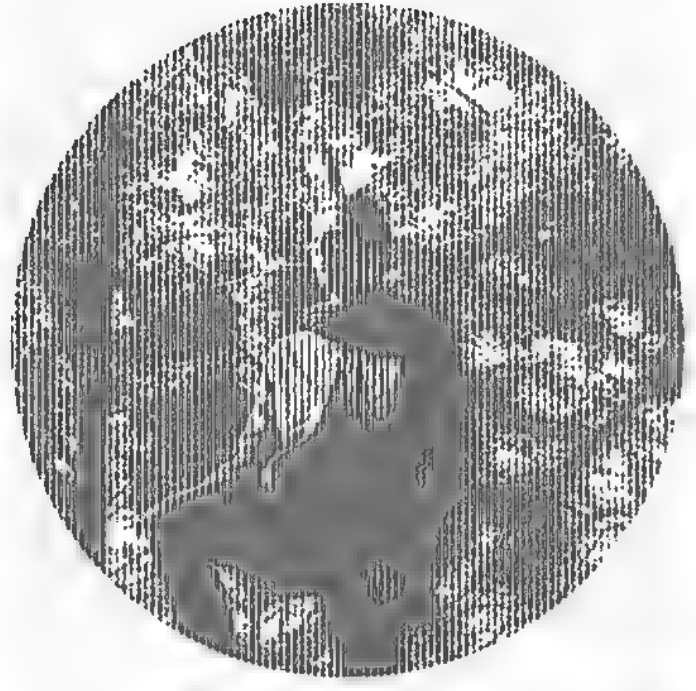
from their previous effort, in that the album is much tighter and the songs are more focused, with the twins finally sounding ready for radio.

The interesting thing about Tegan and Sara is how the twins — who may look and sound similar to the casual listener — begin to emerge as perfect foils with repeated listenings. Tegan is the pop star, who is less restrained, but also less idiosyncratic. Her songs are ready for immediate consumption, if not already over-ripe from soaking in their own saccharine bombast. On *Sainthood*, where the songs are all shouting immediate gratification, it would be inaccurate to call Sara's songs an acquired taste. But Sara is the partner whose songs offer a reprieve from the "slow build and huge chorus" formula of Tegan, offering some otherwise unseen depth.

Although label status supposedly has no bearing on the winner of the Polaris Prize, there is clearly a large bias directed towards indie label acts. Tegan and Sara's contract with Warner Records, and the more damning fact that their music sounds like something from a major label, effectively eliminates any chance they have at taking the prize.

PARTING WORDS

With the Polaris Prize tending to be a "young and experimental" prize and the Junos occupying the role as the "established and commercial" awards, there exists a fairly complete awards paradigm for artists of a certain disposition in this country. Ultimately though, the fact is there's a lot of great music being made in Canada right now and it would likely be made regardless of whether or not the Polaris Prize and the Juno Awards existed. All the recognition really serves is to create a debate. So even if Dan Mangan, with his comforting but unambitious album, does manage to win, artists such as Radio Radio and Shad have no doubt gained a lot of recognition in the process.





# Against Me! still taking on the establishment one decade on

## musicpreview

### Against Me!

With *The Flatliners* and *Young Livers*  
Sunday, September 19 at 7 p.m.  
Edmonton Event Centre (8882-170 St.)  
\$26.50 at Blackbyrd and Ticketmaster

JUSTIN BELL  
Managing Editor

Some hosts are better than others. While you might sometimes get a pleasant welcome and maybe a fresh brew, you could also walk into a street brawl and catch an errant punch straight to the face. Hospitality just isn't what it used to be.

Montreal probably owes Against Me! lead singer Tom Gabel an apology after an incident last year when he tried to grab a beer. Walking out into the street after their night out, the band got caught in a dust-up.

"As we were walking out of the bar, there was this huge crazy fucking fight we got involved in unwittingly," Gabel says. "This rabid girl was throwing punches left and right."

The band got out relatively unscathed (no hospital trip required) but it goes to show the life of a travelling musician is rarely dull. One minute you're enjoying a few drinks with your fellow troubadours, and the next you're dodging punches from crazed drunks.

But it doesn't phase Against Me! They're back this year, touring in support of their newest album *White Crosses*. Their list of tour dates is a mile long and stretches through Canada, the U.S., New Zealand, and Europe. The Gainesville, Florida punk rockers will be on the road until the end of November — a hectic touring schedule for even the most experienced of bands.

"Obviously, it's physically exhausting. It takes an effort to make sure your home life is still there when you come back," explains Gabel.

It's a home life that's been put on hold innumerable times for their band in the last decade.

After starting in 1997, Against Me! is now one of the longest touring punk bands on the scene.

Their roots can be traced back to a small non-profit, anti-corporate library in Gainesville called the Pacific Media Centre, where Gabel would set up some of his earliest shows. Originally from Georgia, he moved to the small university town to get away from life.

"It's really interesting in Florida. There's this point 40 or 50 miles north of Tampa where it switches from Miami Vice to more rural Georgia," says Gabel. "Florida is a big state and there's vast differences from Miami to Pensacola."

**"I don't think just because Bush is out of office, there's not still problems in the world."**

**TOM GABEL**  
SINGER, AGAINST ME!

According to Gabel, most of the state is made up of retirees, tourists, and, as we all know, conservatives. But during his time in Gainesville, he was surrounded by university students and was exposed to anarchist values.

He took those experiences and incorporated them into his lyrics, releasing five albums since 2002 with drinking, partying, and political activism by his side. Songs such as "Pints of Guinness Make You Strong" share the same album as "Those Anarcho Punks are Mysterious ..." both on their cult-hit debut album *Against Me! Is Reinventing Axl Rose*.

But what does a hardcore, anti-conservative punk band do after their most prolific muse, the Bush administration, is turfed from office? Well, political activism is about more than just hating one political party, according to Gabel.

"I don't think just because Bush is out of office, there's not still problems in the world. There's still wars running. If you're paying attention, there's lots of reasons to be angry."



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FILEPHOTO: PETEYEE

## Field Panda's humble beginning launch prolific career

MATT HIRJI  
Sports Editor

The meteoric rise of Jackie Trautman as one of the best women's field hockey players in Canada had humble beginnings.

Growing up in Delta, B.C., just outside Vancouver, the Pandas midfielder originally picked up a field hockey stick because she couldn't find an ice hockey team to play with in her town.

"When I was growing up, I always wanted to play ice hockey, but where I grew up, girls hockey wasn't that big, and because I was always on the small side, I couldn't join a boys team," Trautman recalls. "I was always playing road hockey with my brother and friends on the street by my house. My dad suggested that I take up grass hockey, so I joined a league and ever since then, I have been in love with the sport."

The transition from pavement to grass came naturally to Trautman as she picked up the game on the turf.

With a dedicated sense of purpose, she began to take the sport more seriously in her teenage years and by the time she was 15 years old, she had made the British Columbia provincial team.

Growing up outside Vancouver — a city known for its international flair and passion for field hockey — Trautman was surrounded by a large community dedicated to the sport. Being involved in British Columbia's field hockey hub encouraged her to improve her game.

"It's a huge motivation for me to be surrounded by a big field hockey community in Vancouver. The national team is centralized at UBC. There are just so many opportunities to play at high levels there and the coaching is really good. A lot of the coaches that coach B.C. provincial teams are either current or ex-national team players," Trautman says.

Trautman's decision to come to the University of Alberta to play for the Pandas was largely influenced by her experiences with the Canadian national team — a squad that she has

fond memories of since beginning to train with them when she was 18 years old.

**"We have gone through a lot of adversity over the last couple years with injured players and the fact that B.C. is known as a stronger province for field hockey. We are always seen as underdogs."**

JACKIE TRAUTMAN  
PANDAS FIELD HOCKEY

Carla Duncan, the Pandas head coach in Trautman's first year, who played on the Canadian national team, was a motivating factor in Trautman's relocation to Edmonton.

"I had heard a lot of good things about the coaches at the U of A. In

my first year the head coach was Carla Duncan and people from Vancouver know her pretty well. All of my previous coaches that I had said really good things about the program here at U of A," Trautman notes, adding that she wanted to be a part of "the positive team dynamic that the Pandas are renowned for."

"The team atmosphere is something that encouraged me to come here — the team is really close, both on and off the field. I think one of the reasons that we are so close is that majority of our players are from outside of Edmonton. We are sort of a family."

The Field Pandas have been extremely successful in the past two years since Trautman's arrival to Edmonton. The team won two silver medals at nationals in their last two seasons, with the defender racking up two personal accolades of achievement — Canada West rookie of the year in her first year and most recently the CIS West field hockey athlete of the year.

Trautman attributes her success on the field to a tenacious dedication

to the sport.

"Dedication is a big thing for me. I really commit to a team. I'm dedicated to our team right now, more than anybody could imagine. I am always trying to perform at my best," Trautman says.

The Pandas, who are now entering their third season with a new coach at the helm, will be challenged this season by a very strong contingent of CIS West conference opponents. However, Trautman is confident that her Pandas can come out of the pack ahead and move up the podium from last year's silver medal finish at nationals.

"We have gone through a lot of adversity over the last couple years with injured players and the fact that B.C. is more known as a stronger province for field hockey. We are always seen as the underdogs."

"Our ultimate goal is a gold medal at nationals. It's a little ways down the road and we are just really taking it one game at a time. We really need to focus on winning every weekend series."

## Undefeated Bears prepare for battle against provincial rival Dinos

After opening their season with two road wins, the Gridiron Bears return home this weekend to face off with the top CIS team

BREN CARGILL  
Sports Staff

After getting out to an impressive 2-0 start, the Bears football team will now enter a pivotal stretch as they face off with their provincial rivals, the Calgary Dinos, followed by battles against Saskatchewan and Regina in the coming weeks. The Bears enter this weekend's game two points ahead on their conference rivals and are hoping to keep their undefeated record unscathed.

Last Saturday, the Gridiron Bears traveled to Manitoba and left with a resounding 31-6 victory over the Bisons. Continuing to show improvement from last season, the Bears were impressive on offence. Quarterback Julian Marchand threw for two touchdowns and 170 yards passing.

While the Bears experienced success with their air attack, the team's running game was

integral to their win last weekend against the Bisons. Tailback Matthew Jarvis ran for 45 yards and chalked up one touchdown in the game.

Jarvis has established himself as a force along the ground for the Bears, with 234 yards rushing in the first two games of the season. It is these breakthrough performances by Jarvis that have led the Bears to victory this season, according to the Bears coaching staff.

"Matt [Jarvis] is our go-to guy," said Bears head coach Jerry Friesen. "He was splitting time last year and now he's the guy who's going to carry the load for us."

There usually isn't much to complain about after a sizable win such as the one the Bears scored last Saturday. However, U of M running back Matt Henry seemed to be able to run at will for large parts of the game, finishing with 134 yards on 21 carries. This leaves some questions regarding the Bears' ability to defend the run.

"We didn't have a very good start and he really took it to us for about the first 19 minutes of the game. Getting back to basics and settling into the game took us a little while and if there was a challenge for us, it was reining in Matt Henry" Friesen explained.

Despite their struggles shoring up the defensive line, the win was crucial for the Bears as they can now enter the game against Calgary on a high note on Saturday.

The Dinos are regarded by many as the top team in the Canada West Conference heading into this season. Not only do the Bears get to test themselves against the team that eliminated them last year from the playoffs, but there's always an added level of intensity when they square off against their provincial rivals.

"Whenever you play Calgary, no matter where it is or when it is, it will always be exciting. The opportunity to play them again, it doesn't

matter when it is, there's going to be fireworks so we're looking forward to it," Friesen said.

Calgary quarterback and two-time CIS most Outstanding Player award winner Erik Glavic may not be ready to play this Saturday due to a knee injury suffered two weekends ago in their game against Saskatchewan. While the loss of their pivot may hamper the Dinos this weekend, their win in last week's contest against Regina proved that Glavic's replacement is no slouch. Eric Dzwilewski threw for 258 yards and two touchdowns.

"They're both really good athletes who both run the system really well, so I don't think there's much of a drop-off between the two. We just want to make sure we corral him," explained Friesen.

The battle between the Gridiron Bears and the Calgary Dinos gets underway at Foote Field September 18, with kickoff at 1 p.m.



# Puck Bears open season against formidable UNB rival

EVAN DAUM  
Sports Staff

It may only be September, but with the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds coming to town to take on the hockey Bears, the atmosphere building around Clare Drake Arena feels more like a March post-season game.

The V-Reds will make the journey to Edmonton this Friday as part of their western Canadian tour that will see the perennial Atlantic conference power take on the Calgary Dinos twice, before their Edmonton match-up.

The game between the Bears and V-Reds, who combined have won five of the last six national championships, is a rare pre-season match-up between the two premiere teams in CIS hockey over the last decade.

For Bears head coach Eric Thurston, the game will be an early test for his squad that features a lot of new faces and should serve as an excellent measuring tool for the defending Canada West conference champions.

"They had a great run during the regular season, and things didn't work out the way they would've liked to in playoffs," Thurston said of UNB, who went 27-1 during the regular season before falling in the conference semifinals.

"Even though we didn't get the Oilers-Rookies Game this year, this is a good measuring stick for us. This game is another test for us and we're going to have to be very smart with our game."

With the potential to meet UNB come March at the University Cup — a tournament the V-Reds will be



FILE PHOTO: CYRIL BALITBIT

hosting — the sneak peak at a potential opponent at nationals is an added pre-season bonus for Thurston.

"Obviously, they've either had some stuff in place, or they're trying to put stuff in place, so it gives you a little bit of a blueprint. Throughout the course of the year, there certainly can be changes, and probably will be," Thurston explained.

Along with getting a glimpse of what the V-Reds will bring to the table as a team, the game will also shed some light on individual talent.

That look should help the Bears gain some familiarity if the two sides meet again.

"You can look at players' tendencies, you can look at the lines and what their skilled players can bring to the table. It will give us a chance to know their depth rather than seeing just their stats," Thurston said.

"This will be a good indication for us, and we will take what we can, and move on from there."

One of the players the Bears will be watching most closely for the V-Reds

will be reigning CIS Player of the Year, Hunter Tremblay, who claimed the Senator Joseph A. Sullivan trophy last season after a 57-point campaign.

Looking to counter Tremblay's offensive prowess will be a number of returning Bears, including Canada West MVP Chad Klassen. Newcomer Johnny Lazo will be leaned on for offence this season, playing alongside new linemates Sean Ringrose and new captain Eric Hunter as one of the Bears' top two lines.

"He's obviously not a big guy, but

man, can he shoot the puck. I think he's got a great wrist shot and snapshot," Thurston said of Lazo. "Playing with Ringrose, who works very hard along with Hunter — who also works very hard and is sort of a thorn in the side — Johnny will add that offensive upside."

The Bears will look to get their feet wet tonight against ACAC opponent Concordia at Clare Drake Arena in their first pre-season game of the year, before hosting the V-Reds Friday night, with the puck drop for both contests slated for 7 p.m.



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# New Eskimos GM deserves a second punt at the top job

After his sexual interference charge was recently dropped, Eric Tillman's arrival in Edmonton should be met with an open mind



EVAN  
DAUM

Sports  
Commentary

Eric Tillman has a big mess to deal with as the new Eskimos general manager, and some personal demons to cast aside along the way. The former Saskatchewan Roughriders GM endured an unceremonious departure from Regina in January after he plead guilty to a sexual assault in a case involving his family's 16-year-old babysitter.

While Tillman was granted an absolute discharge with no criminal record earlier this year, the three-time Grey Cup winner resigned from his position as Riders GM nearly eight months ago and faded into the football background — until now that is.

The floundering 2-8 Eskimos hired the longtime football manager this week to fill a position left empty after the firing of Danny

Maciocia back in July. For a franchise that has already seen fan support shrink over the last several seasons, which has been hurt more by a poor season this year, hiring a man with a tainted past may seem like organizational suicide. But it's far from it.

There's no debating Tillman's football resume, having won a Grey Cup with three different franchises, including his most recent triumph in 2007 when he handed the Rider Nation only its second championship.

Whether or not Tillman has the capability to turn around the woefully bad Eks has never been the issue here. The baggage Tillman brings with him makes his hiring about more than just football for the Eks and CEO Rick LeLachur.

Tillman's past was what LeLachur and the Eks board of directors needed to consider most carefully with this hiring, and not if Tillman will deliver this city another Grey Cup.

The Green and Gold have opened themselves up to even further criticism and frustration from an already exasperated fan base. They knew his hiring would come with its fair share of public disdain — LeLachur has already pegged about 60 to 65 per cent of fan response he's received on the hiring as negative.

This move is bigger than just a football story; it's a story of forgiveness, second chances, and what it takes to make things right.

As LeLachur said, "Do I believe in giving people a second chance? Yes, I do. Do I believe that Eric Tillman deserves that chance? Yes, I do. Will people in this community

give him that chance? We're asking them to."

The babysitter's family has since accepted Tillman's apologies, as did the judge in the case. That counts for something, as does Tillman's

sincere remorse.

His regrets don't mean Tillman deserves a simple pass from Edmontonians, as they welcome him into his very public role. But at the very least, it's time for Edmonton to find out who Eric Tillman is as the team moves forward.

In a very emotional and honest press conference, Tillman talked football, of course. But the most telling moments came in reference to the incident that will stick with Tillman forever.

"If you want to look at people and judge them by their worst moments and their worst quality, you're not going to like and respect many people," Tillman said.

We've spent the last few days now looking at Tillman's worst moments, and the picture hasn't been a pretty one. Tillman isn't the perfect man for the job — that man doesn't exist.

Everybody has moments that they wish we could have back, but it's time to turn the page and let Eric Tillman write the rest of his story. I'm betting on the ending being a good one, for both the Eskimos and Tillman, as the team searches for the glory of years past in the future.

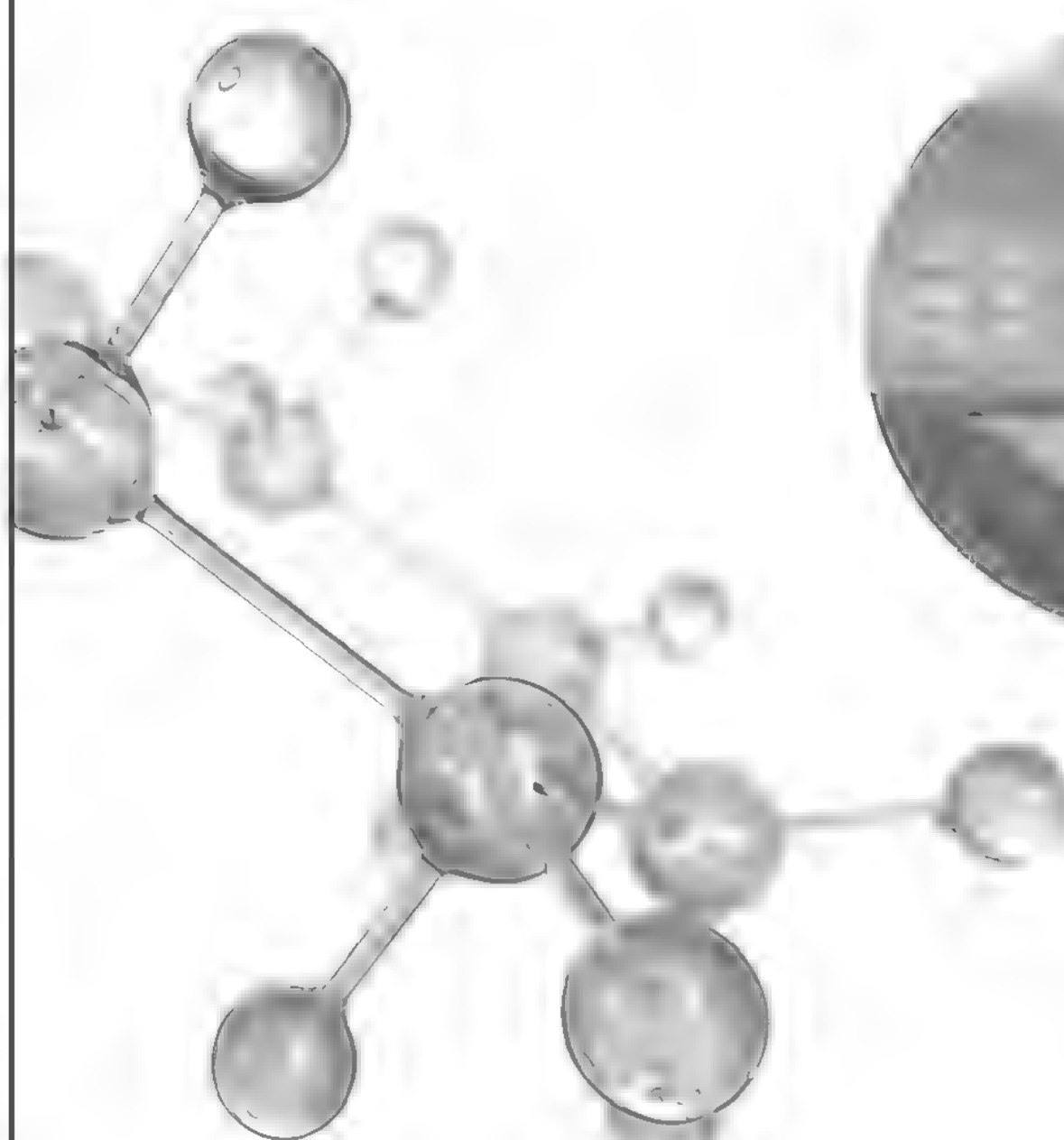


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# Oilers on the road to recovery after four years of missteps



RYLAN  
LOTSBERG  
  
Sports  
Commentary

Following the Oilers Stanley Cup run in 2006, GM Kevin Lowe embarked on a mission to continue the team’s momentum so that they could remain successful and possibly have another shot at drinking from the Cup. His failures have left the Oilers in one of the darkest moments in franchise history.

To the untrained eye, the Edmonton Oilers enter training camp this season embarking upon an arduous reconstruction process. But look closely and it appears that the Oilers began this rebuilding undertaking at the end of the magical playoff run of the 2005-2006 season. The team has tried to rejuvenate themselves since Chris Pronger and 10 other players left the team shortly after their miraculous playoff run. However, despite their four-year attempt, the Oilers are starting from scratch once again this season.

Currently, Ales Hemsky and Shawn Horcoff are the only two players remaining from the active roster of the 2006 Stanley Cup finalists. The off-season that year marked the beginning of a three-year stretch that saw players like Joffrey Lupul, Petr Sykora, Petr Nedved, Joni Pitkanen, Erik Cole, and Ales Kotalik get acquired and then subsequently lost by the Oilers.

Throughout his tenure with the

Oilers, Lowe managed to pick up players that nobody else wanted. He signed Sheldon Souray after being snubbed by Michael Nylander in 2007. Then, much to the dismay of then Anaheim GM Brian Burke, he signed Dustin Penner to a ridiculous contract, after missing his first attempt at inking an absurd contract when Thomas Vanek walked away. Lowe also traded beloved Oiler Ryan Smyth away for essentially nothing — a sore point for Oilers fans every time Smyth returns to Edmonton to play against the Oilers.

While the promotion of Kevin Lowe to President of Hockey Operations in 2008 was a surprise to many disgruntled Edmontonians dreaming of past Oil glory, Steve Tambellini has at least noted the mistakes that his predecessor made. Tambellini is embarking on a gruelling construction process that is very different from Lowe’s. Instead of trying to recreate a relic, the Oilers are now finally creating a rejuvenated franchise.

Since February, Tambellini has begun to clear house, trading three of the teams defensemen and has releasing eight forwards, replacing them with new talent — drafting Magnus Paajarvi-Svensson in 2009 and Taylor Hall with the first overall pick in 2010.

All of these moves have made for a competitive training camp that gets underway on Friday. Taylor Hall, Jordan Eberle, Magnus Paajarvi-Svensson and Linus Omark highlight a group of Oilers prospects that are sure to compete for a spot on the roster. Ryan Jones, who was picked up on waiver by the Oilers late last season, along with newcomers Colin Fraser and Ben Ondrus are also likely



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

to make the opening day roster. Some players from Springfield (Edmonton’s AHL affiliate), such as J.F. Jacques and Liam Reddox, should garner consideration as well.

The defense is practically set in stone heading into training camp. Off-season acquisitions Jim Vandermeer and Kurtis Foster add depth to a group which includes Tom Gilbert and Ryan Whitney, who had success as a pairing

at the end of last season. Ladislav Smid and Jason Strudwick are also likely returnees.

Nikolai Khabibulin seems to have recovered from his back injury, but he is currently appealing a 30-day jail sentence for a DUI he received in Arizona last year. If he is unable to start the season, Jeff Drouin-Deslauriers and Devan Dubnyk will be left to compete for the starting job

in goal. After four seasons, which have seen futile attempts to appease a hungry fan base, the Edmonton Oilers rebuilding process finally appears to be heading down the right track. One can only hope that the mistakes made my Lowe can finally be fixed and glory can be restored to the Oil Nation as the team moves on from their four year debacle.

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The Plan is a critical service of the Students' Union to compliment Alberta Health Care coverage. The Plan automatically covers all undergraduate students taking at least 3 credits in the Fall Term and who pay SU fees. If you're not sure of your coverage status, check your detailed fee statement on Bear Tracks. The cost of the Plan is part of your student fees.

### Want to Opt Out or Enrol Family?

All enrolments and opt outs can be completed online at [www.ihaveaplan.ca](http://www.ihaveaplan.ca). The deadline is **Sept. 21, 2010**. Only new Winter Term students can enrol themselves and their spouse/dependants between Jan. 5 - 21, 2011.

**Have Questions?** Visit the Student Health & Dental Plan Office, SUB 028, Lower Level The Member Services Centre is also there to assist you from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekdays.

**Toll-free: 1 866 795-4430**



[ihaveaplan.ca](http://ihaveaplan.ca)



### crossword

**Best Crosswords**  
Puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com  
(<http://www.bestcrosswords.com>).  
Used with permission.

**Across**

1. Injectable diazepam, in military lingo  
5. Cotton thread used for hosiery  
10. Dog-powered snow vehicle  
14. Ancient Greek coin  
15. Bandleader Shaw  
16. Abominable snowman  
17. Monetary unit of Lesotho  
18. Customary  
19. Entre  
20. Clouded  
22. Assisting the memory  
24. Pilfer  
25. Was merciful to  
26. Ink spot  
28. Pond insect  
32. First name in scat  
35. Craze  
37. Dowry  
38. Become an ex-parrot?  
39. Ice cream substitute

**Down**

1. Young male horses  
2. Close to  
3. Dame  
4. Arabian Nights hero  
5. Extol

41. Lennon's lady  
42. Yearly records  
45. Drag  
46. "\_\_\_\_\_ the night before Christmas ..."  
47. Island in the East China Sea  
48. Coconut-husk fiber  
50. "Hundred," to nonmilitary types.  
54. Locations  
58. Deception  
61. Canal site  
62. Autobahn auto  
63. Birthplace of Muhammad  
65. One way to run  
66. Bloodsucking insect  
67. Men  
68. Network of nerves  
69. Blue hue  
70. Crackerjack  
71. Belgian river

6. Apr. addressee  
7. Stub  
8. Woody vine  
9. Conger catcher  
10. Pertaining to a church council  
11. Boxer Spinks  
12. Sewing case  
13. It may be compact  
21. Sick  
23. Office note  
25. Celestial body  
27. Rubs out  
29. Arab sailing vessel  
30. Actress Rowlands  
31. Archer of myth  
32. Dutch cheese, wrapped in red wax  
33. Director Wertmuller  
34. Fast time  
36. Speck  
37. Fast-food option  
40. Expression of disgust  
43. Not sociable  
44. Good fortune  
46. Consisting of three parts  
49. This stickup!  
51. Helping theorem  
52. Mountain nymph

53. Recurring series  
55. Domesticates  
56. Chew the scenery  
57. Brown and white Eurasian falcon  
58. 27th president of the U.S

59. Dominion  
60. Brain wave  
61. Gone by  
64. Brown-capped boletus mushroom



## CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, please go to [www.campusclassifieds.ca](http://www.campusclassifieds.ca)

### FOR SALE

WALK TO THE U OF A. Move in to this beautifully renovated one bedroom condo before school starts! Walking distance to U of A, Fringe, and the farmers market. New lights, hardwood flooring, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances and more. This condo has been completely renovated from top to bottom and also has the luxury of in-suite laundry and a north-facing balcony. Condo fees include, h/p/w!! Call Gillian Kirkland @ All Banners Realty. 780-902-9850.

### FOR RENT

PARKING 116St-89 ave. \$75 per month. \$575 to the end of April 2011. AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY. [alkrez@shaw.ca](mailto:alkrez@shaw.ca) or 780-457-6743

### EMPLOYMENT - PART TIME

Are you looking for a full or part-time job that will work to your schedule and will pay you the highest in the industry? If so, A CAPPELLA CATERING is the place you need to be. We are currently hiring full and part-time banquet servers. We pay the highest wage in the industry with gratuities and bonus incentives. A valid driver's license is required. Come join the many U of A Students currently working here. Email your resume to [kims@acappella.ab.ca](mailto:kims@acappella.ab.ca).

September Expansion! Great for PT around any stead. Flexible Schedules, Customer Sales/Service, 16.25 base/app, Will Train, Some conditions apply. Scholarships Available! 780-409-8608 to apply or visit [www.work4students.ca](http://www.work4students.ca).

### SERVICES

TheClansmen, your downtown Rugby Club, welcomes new members on a year round basis. Both Men and Women. No previous Rugby experience required. Contact 476-0268 or check [www.clanrugby.com](http://www.clanrugby.com). Get involved in Rugby, a game for life!

### PIG ROLLERS

Business was bad. With the over-saturated market, pig rollers had to keep dropping their prices, which was fine for most people — they all had other jobs as bankers, plumbers, janitors, or sign holders.

But not me: I was pig roller head-to-toe. When people said they were getting their pigs rolled for less than a regular meal, I was outraged.

"I can't live on a Hot Pocket, damnit!"


Adam Smith's "invisible hand" had screwed me again.

Those days, I was lucky if I got to roll a dog or magazine. Things were so bad I had to resort to murder more than a few times. I'm not really a bad guy.

"It was me or them," I would say to the police, but that only got me arrested.



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**Students' Union Building  
Myer Horowitz Theatre  
September 21, 2010  
5:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.**

You may have been told to expect multiple employers over the course of your career. How would you feel about multiple careers with a single employer? As one of Canada's leading employers, we ensure that employees have opportunities for continuous education, development and a long-term career.

**Application Deadlines:** For student terms starting in January, the deadline is September 26th; for 2011 graduate and summer positions, the deadline is October 3rd.

If you're a student or new graduate in Engineering, Business, Earth Science or related disciplines, explore Imperial Oil to see how we're able to help you achieve your full potential.

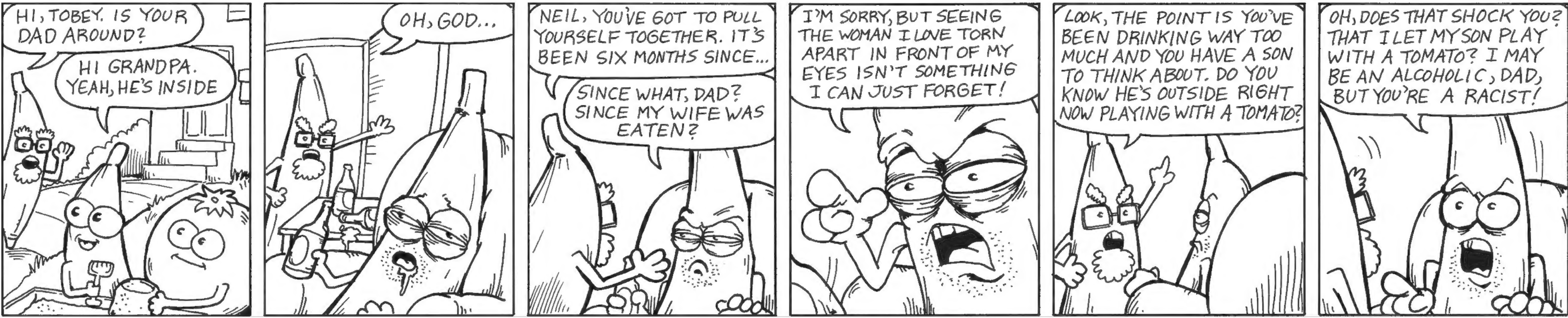
Looking forward to seeing you at the event!

If you are unable to attend, visit our website for more information about graduate and summer/co-op opportunities at Imperial Oil.

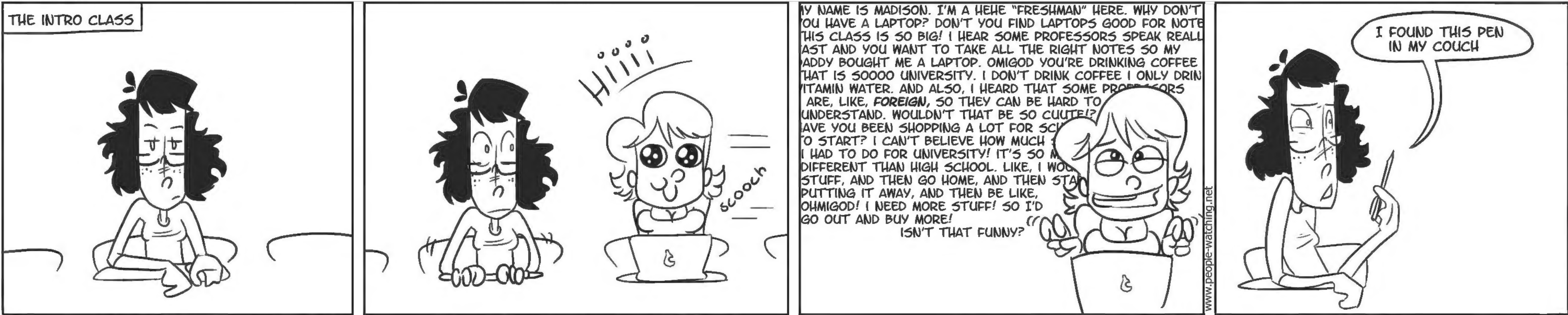
[www.imperialoil.ca/campus](http://www.imperialoil.ca/campus)



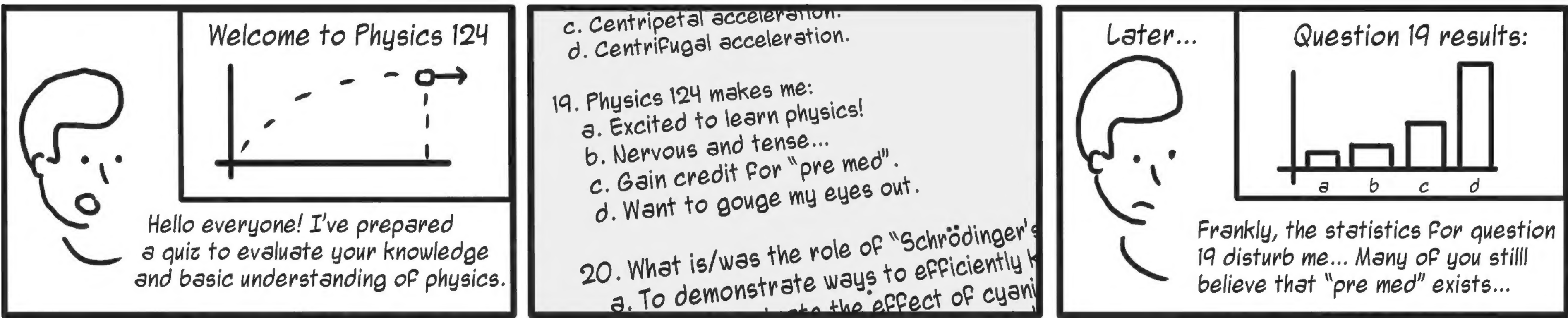
SINGLE DAD BANANA by Benjamin Ripley



PEOPLE WATCHING by Faye Campbell



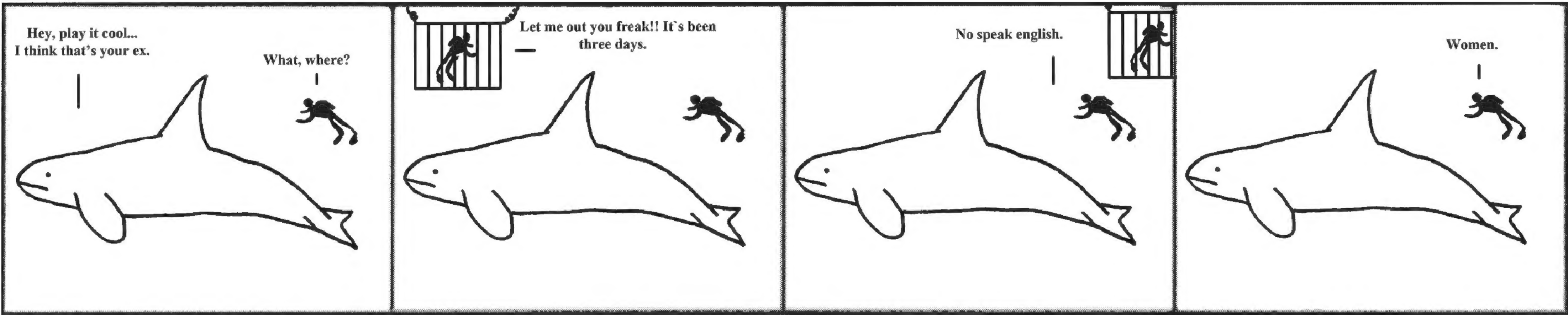
SEXY GEEK by Ross Lockwood



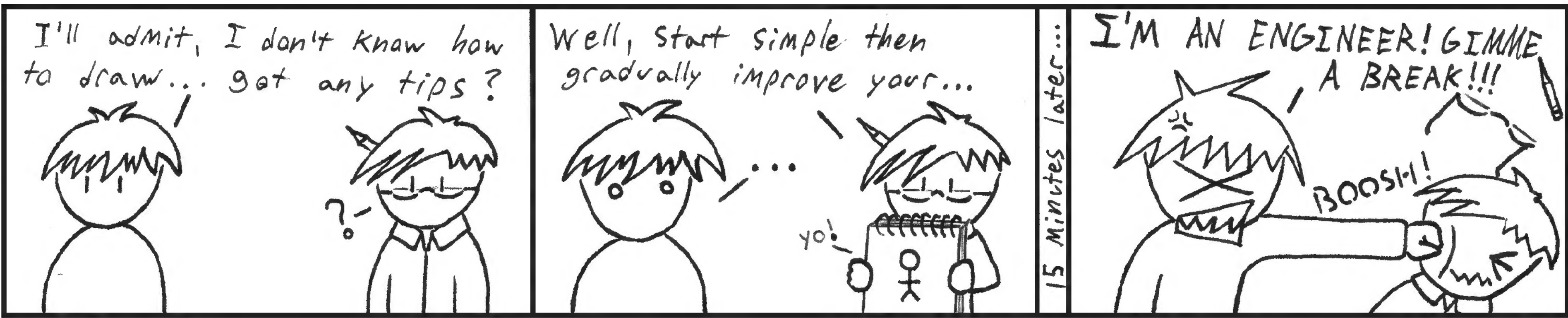
SCRIBBLE MONSTER by Eric Chiang



WHALE AND DIVER by Andrew Cowie



LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE by Derrick Nguyen





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